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ON THE
PRESENT CONDITION
OF
UNITED CANADA

AS REGARDS HER

AGRICULTURE, TRADE, & COMMERCE:

WITH PLANS FOR ADVANCING THE SAME, AND FOR PROMOTING
THE HEALTH, WEALTH, AND PROSPERITY OF HER INHABITANTS.

WITH REFLECTIONS ON THE PRESENT STATE OF THE

PROTESTANT RELIGION;

WITH A VIEW TO DETERMINE ITS VARIOUS SECTS AND ULTIMATE-
LY TO BRING THEM INTO ONE

POWERFUL UNITED BODY,

ALSO A

DISSERTATION ON THE NATIONAL DEBT
OF GREAT BRITAIN,

WITH A PLAN FOR ITS GRADUAL PAYMENT.

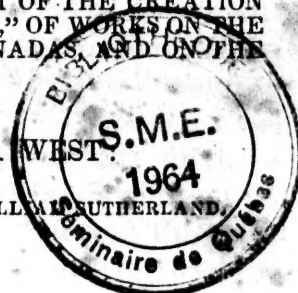
BY THE AUTHOR OF "THE SYSTEM OF THE CREATION
OF OUR GLOBE, PLANETS AND SUN," OF WORKS ON THE
PRESENT CONDITION OF THE CANADAS, AND ON THE
UNION OF THE CANADAS.

LONDON, CANADA WEST.

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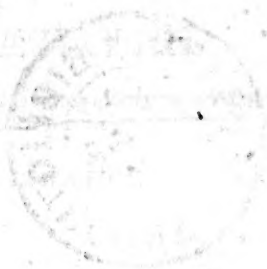
1849.

Séminaire de Québec
Quebec 4. QUE



PRESENT CONDITION

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PREFACE.

In presenting this Work to the Public, the Author humbly observes, that of the Works named in the Title Page he published and sold 5000 Copies, and he is happy to say they have met with the approbation of the Canadian Public. Some years have elapsed since their first publication, but during that time the Author has not been an unobserving spectator of the political occurrences, and the public affairs of the Province. It is the Province of his birth, and the deep interest he feels for its real and permanent welfare, will probably appear in the present work. It is probably the last he shall present to the Public, and he will therefore, with unbiassed freedom deliver his thoughts on the separate articles named in the Title Page, hoping thereby—

1stly. To obtain for this United Province a valuable market for its staple produce, in remuneration for the taking off of the Protecting Duties, by the total repeal of the British Corn Laws said to take place in February next.

2dly. To promote the establishment of Agricultural School Farms, wherein the modern scientific improvements in Agriculture

shall be taught to the Agricultural Youth, with a view to promote the increased production of the soil, as one antidote to the above named loss of the protecting duties on Canadian Wheat,

3rdly. To call the Attention of Protestant Divines of all persuasions, to the present state of the Protestant Religion, with a view to demonstrate the necessity and high advantages of a Grand National Protestant Union of the various Sects, into one **NATIONAL PROTESTANT CHURCH**: and

4thly. To show the practicability of paying off the vast burden of the National Debt; and the great advantages to the Trade, Manufactures, Commerce, Navigation, and Public Improvements, which must ensue to Great Britain and her Colonies by this great National operation,

January, 1849.

ON THE PRESENT CONDITION OF UNITED CANADA.

In the following work we shall take into review the various subjects thereof, in the order they are named in the Prospectus published.

And first on Agriculture. What I have published on this subject in the works named in the Prospectus, has chiefly related to the Eastern part of the Province. I shall therefore briefly recapitulate and explain the nature of the plan I therein proposed for the advance of the Agriculture of that part of the United Province, with observations in support thereof, and with arguments which I think will enforce the plan on the consideration of its Government and Legislature.

I shall then proceed to consider the present state of the Agriculture of the Western part of the Province, both as to its domestic condition and as relating to the very important change in the duties on Wheat, that has been announced to take place in the Parent State in a very short period of time.

As to the Agricultural state of Eastern Canada, it has long been a general opinion that

it is almost impossible to prevail on the French Canadian *habitant* to alter the mode of Agriculture his forefathers pursued.

This adherence to old modes of Agriculture, even when proved so greatly inferior to that of modern discovery, is by no means confined to the "*habitans*" of Eastern Canada. It is not 70 years ago since Scotland practised nearly as deficient a mode as Eastern Canada generally does at this day. It was only during the last general war in Europe, that the high prices of grain induced some wealthy intelligent farmers to adopt the modern improvements into Scottish Agriculture, and thereby to lay the foundation for its present advanced and highly productive condition. It is true, however, that notwithstanding some of the more intelligent French Canadians have endeavoured to instruct their fellow-countrymen in a more productive mode of Agriculture, one of which writers I will mention—Mr. Perrault, who, some years since published in Quebec, a very excellent little book, on modern Agriculture; notwithstanding these attempts to redeem their country from a mode of Agriculture now obsolete, even in France, from whence it was brought to Canada, and notwithstanding these Canadians, by their own accounts, find their lands falling off in their yield of wheat from nigh 40 bushels per acre or arpent which their forefathers frequently obtained, to 10 or 12

bushels, yet they, with surprising tenacity resist the adoption of the modern and more productive practice. It was on account of being well aware of this tenacity, that, in the plan I had proposed in former works, I had contrived to make it not only the interest of the French Agriculturists generally, to adopt this plan but also that each individual among them should feel his interest in, and thereby reap profit from it.

In order now to bring into prominent view the great advantage of an awakened zeal for Agricultural Improvements, as regards the quietude of the Eastern part of the Province, I shall here have to digress a little into its past and present condition.

I verily believe that the almost total destruction of the wheat crops by the wheat fly, which was the case for 6 or 7 years, and just about the period of the rebellion in 1836 and 7, was in one respect an incidental cause of that rebellion. The French Canadian peasantry had always been in the habit of consuming a great deal of wheaten bread in their families. But by the wheat fly they were obliged to feed upon the inferior grain, oats and potatoes. I have myself observed among them the discontent this at first occasioned, and altho' they could not blame the Government on this account, still when a man is suddenly reduced to more uncomfortable circumstances than customary, he

is the more ready to receive the impulse of dissatisfaction infused into him by discontented and designing demagogues, and their numerous emissaries. Now I believe the introduction of this destructive fly arose in great measure from the want of a sound and vigorous state of Agriculture. We know that the use of lime is general all over England and probably in France, and we know that lime is a great destroyer of insects. I believe there never has been (except perhaps by a few individuals among the English farmers) any lime used in the soil of Eastern Canada.

Since the memorable putting down of that outbreak, this part of the Province has been blessed with tranquility. The vexed and long discussed question in the Legislature of responsibility, has now apparently been settled, and the British Government appears to have agreed to it; subject only, as in a Colony it must always be, to the discretion of its Governor. This is shown in a late dispatch of Lord Grey's to the Governor of Nova Scotia, and this agrees exactly with the Explanation I gave of the true meaning of Lord John Russel's dispatch of 1839, on responsibility, in my work on the past and present condition of United Canada, published in 1840-41, Montreal.

Thus the boon of Responsible Government has been given to the Province. Several persons of great practical knowledge

of the Provincial affairs, and of considerable talents, are very dubious of the ultimate good effects of this responsibility. Reformers in general appear to be well satisfied with, and to take great pride in it. But it is very remarkable that the noted Monsieur Papineau appears to be one of its greatest enemies. He would not believe in it; but the recent fact of the present Governor having chosen his new ministry from the majority of the house, may perhaps convince his unbelieving soul. This man had declared in one of his letters to his constituents, that he would not accept of a seat in Parliament because he did not wish to divide the Reformers. His inconsistency is therefore glaring in this instance, but the same remark cannot be applied to his first speech in that Parliament. That appears to be perfectly consistent with all his ideas and conduct previous to the last rebellion. His twelve years' banishment from his native country; the clemency of the British Government in restoring him to it, (which I hope may not turn out hereafter to have been done more in folly than in wisdom)—all this seems to have effected no change whatever in his political course. In fact, it appears to me that these ancient ideas of his mind, he cannot eradicate, although he must see that so great a change has taken place in the Government of the country that they are totally inapplicable. This Mr.

Papineau is the reputed prime mover and leader of the late rebellion, at least until it came to blows, which it appears he retired from very adroitly. He is now clamouring about increasing the number of Eastern Canadian Members of Parliament. Does he not reflect that in consequence of that rebellion, the British Government might have taken away the representative form entirely, and instituted the old Government of that part of the Province by Governor and Council, and that had it not been for the expedient of the Union of the Provinces, which he so much deploras, that measure would very probably have been adopted. The public affairs of the United Province, containing about 1250 thousand souls, is carried on by 84 representatives, while the public affairs of the population of Great Britain, amounting with her East India Colonies, which are virtually represented, to about 125 millions, is carried on by 658 members. The ratio for the population of United Canada would therefore be about $6\frac{1}{2}$ members, whereas she has 84. Now the object of endeavouring to obtain more Eastern Canadian Members is, that Mr. Papineau knows the majority would be French members, by which means, as was the case in that part of the Province before the union, the united Parliament would come under the sway of that French Majority; and as I consider it morally impossible that the British

population of Eastern Canada would ever consent to that sway over them again, in case of the union being broken up, so I consider it morally and perhaps, physically impossible that they and the population of Western Canada would ever consent to that sway in a United Parliament. Such an occurrence would defeat the very object of the Union, which was to obviate the unlimited sway which the French majorities had in the Eastern Canadian Parliament. The numbers of Representatives are now equal for both sections of the United Provinces; therefore no measure hostile to the general interests of the Eastern part could take place. It is therefore to be hoped the British Government will be aware of the danger of introducing a measure of the kind alluded to; and in fact if the union should be broken up, it is possible the Eastern Province would have to be governed by a Governor and Council. It appears to me that Papineau's political conduct very much resembles that of Dan. O'Connell in Ireland. After twenty or thirty years of monster meetings and monster agitations, where has he left them? In a state, perhaps a thousand fold worse than where he found them; and I think the observation I have often made on his policy will equally apply to Papineau's. The observation was, that it was a thousand pities that O'Connell was not born with a zeal for the diffusion of Agricultural Science equal

to the vast talents he possessed. Had that been the case we should not have had our humane feelings so shocked by the dreadful scenes of want, starvation, and misery which have so long existed in that unhappy land. So in Canada, Mr. Papineau must certainly have been many years aware of the great falling-off in the products of the soil for want solely of a restorative mode of Agriculture. A few years since, I made a tour through the Townships east of Montreal. In a nearly uninhabited part of one of them, I found a French Canadian woman living with her grown up family; on my asking her why she had left the society of her acquaintance in Three Rivers, her native place? 'Monsieur,' she replied, 'les terres n'y poussent plus,' 'sir, the lands there are worn out,' and I verily believe that if the same sort of husbandry be continued many years longer in Eastern Canada, the same case will happen to many of its inhabitants as with this poor woman. "If you wish to do good to the French Agricultural population, said a virtuous French member of the United Parliament, during its last Session in Kingston, teach them how to grow green crops." If then Mr. Papineau have any knowledge of the science of modern Agriculture, there is no doubt he would do infinitely more good to his countrymen, by diffusing a zeal for the practice of it among them, than by exciting their political

discontent. By this means, should he succeed in his efforts for this purpose of introducing the more productive system of Agriculture generally, he would in some measure atone for the griefs and legal retributions he contributed to bring on them by the late revolts. But whether he chooses to exert his talents in this way or not, I feel well convinced that the most efficacious way of protecting that population from the baneful consequences of being led astray from the paths of peaceful industry, by the evil suggestions of would-be demagogues and agitators is the rendering by Government and a patriotic Legislature, every encouragement to the development of plans that should be found competent to excite a zeal and a love of scientific Agriculture, in the minds of the Canadian Agriculturalists. The practice of Agriculture in its rudest state is healthy, independent, and honourable. But when to that practice is added scientific knowledge, observation and perhaps the hope of discovery, it must be extremely interesting, and it would then not only profitably employ the labour of the husbandman, but probably offer him abundant interesting matter for conversation in his leisure hours.

It is true that a few Agricultural Societies have established themselves in this part of the Province. The design is meritorious, but it does not appear that they have yet produced

any material change in the mode of Agriculture of the habitant peasantry. The endeavours of these societies to amend the breed of cattle and ploughing, may have been of some avail; but with respect to these societies, I beg leave to say that in my humble opinion, what is chiefly wanted is, to encourage a greater production of wheat to the arpent or acre. If a premium were given to the farmer who should produce the greatest number of bushels to the acre; a premium sufficiently large to make it an object to him to increase the ploughing and harrowing of the soil, and to add the rotation of fertilizing green crops and the forming of manure compost heaps, he would probably do so, and having done so at first with a view to the large premium (which perhaps should not be less than £8 or £10) he would, on finding the profits of this greater yield of his land, continue this mode of Agriculture on its own account.

I shall now state the nature of the plan I had proposed in my late work for the introduction of the modern system of Agriculture in the Eastern part of the Province.

The great discovery of the productive effects of alternate grain and green crops, which is now generally practised in all countries at all advanced in Agricultural knowledge, has never that I am aware of been adopted by the French Canadian Agriculturists. Those who

reside near the Towns, it is true, have opportunities of seeing the advantages of this mode of Agriculture reaped by the old country farmers. But the bulk of the Agricultural population reside at considerable distances from the towns, and are probably unacquainted with the superior yield of this mode. In order therefore to introduce a thorough knowledge of it through the entire of the French Canadian settlements; I have proposed in the plan to hire one 'terre,' or farm, in every 6th or 7th Parish of the Eastern Province settled by French Canadians, giving the preference to the lowest offer. For each of these School Farms a person well acquainted with the practice of the modern Agriculture is to be provided, who is to engage to work the farm according to the modern system in the most economical manner. The owners of the farm to reside thereon, with his family, and to agree to assist in the working thereof under the direction of the aforesaid Agriculturist, the owner being paid for his labour. The farm to be hired for 5 or 7 years as an Experimental School Farm and the owner to agree, providing he finds the mode of Agriculture followed on the farm to be more productive than the old mode, that he will adopt it when the lease of the farm is out. The hired Agriculturist to keep regular accounts of the working of the farm, of the products and sales thereof, and to give in the

amount thereof annually, or oftener, to the commissioners appointed by the government or Legislature to hire and inspect the said agricultural farms. By this mode it is expected that these farms will, by prudent management of the agriculturist on each of them, be enabled nearly to pay their expences, and any extra profit remaining to go to the agriculturist as a reward for the good management of the farm. At the end of the 5 or 7 years for which the farm is hired, it would be given up to the owner, and another hired in one of the other Parishes, and worked in the above said manner, by the said agriculturist. By this plan, therefore, a knowledge of the modern system of farming may be diffused through every part of the Province; and it is conceived the hiring of the farms in the above manner will interest a great number of the habitant farmers who will thereby get a fair compensation in money for the hire of their farms. But the success of the farms will also greatly depend on a due inspection, by the commissioners aforesaid, of the managing agriculturists on the farms as to their honest economical management thereof, and their agricultural skill in working them. It would be advantageous if the agriculturist on these farms understood to speak French, but if that cannot always be, there are many French Canadians who speak English and could be hired

to work on the farm. When the very great advantages that will occur in the Province, if these Agricultural Experimental Farms can be made successful in introducing the productive modern mode of Agriculture into general use among the French Agricultural population, it is hoped and believed that gentlemen will readily be found willing to act as commissioners, for a moderate salary, to effect this great useful and honourable purpose.

I shall close this subject of the Agriculture of the Eastern part of the Province with an observation addressed principally to the attention of the ministers just now come into power and the Legislative Members in the House of Assembly. After having sought Responsible Government for several years, they have now obtained it. The miserably low state of Agriculture in the Seigneuries of Eastern Canada, has long been notorious. Will it not be a glorious thing for this Ministry if they can restore the Agriculture of this country to a productive and prosperous state? It would, indeed, be worthy the attention of the most enlightened Government, for, should the plan for restoring the land to fertility succeed, they would have the honour of conferring a greater blessing on their country than has ever yet been done; and another higher blessing would probably result from this event, they would probably secure the tranquility and content of

their country, and place them beyond the reach of the unhappy agitations of discontented demagogues; excite in the Agricultural population a zeal for the improved science of Agriculture. Teach them how to better their own condition by its industrious and persevering practice, and they will look upon all attempts to sow dissension among them with merited scorn.

In a work published in Montreal some years since, on this same subject, I stated that, respecting the plan for introducing the modern more productive system of Agriculture generally, among the French Canadian Agriculturists in Eastern Canada, there was no body of men more seriously interested therein than the Montreal Merchants, that the number of importing merchants in Western Canada, was increasing annually, and would continue so to do, and that, as that branch of trade was slipping from their hands, it would be wise and prudent in them to use all their influence to advance the Agriculture of their part of the Province, thereby increasing the production of the soil, and placing its rural population in a position that would enable them to become valuable customers to those Montreal Merchants. The event is turning out, I believe, as I represented. The trade of Montreal is said to be greatly declining; and numbers of the French population, being, I presume, un-

able to gain a sufficient living, owing to the exhausted state of their lands, are emigrating from the Eastern portion of the Province.

I now proceed to consider the present state of the Agriculture of Western Canada. I remember when I was a boy at school in England, reading an account of Upper Canada, in Salmon's Geographical Grammar. This was about the year 1785. I was then informed it was in a state of nature, rocks and woods. The French settlement in Cataraqui, and a few small settlements in the Western District, all that was then. What then must be my sensation in travelling through this land of my birth in the present day! Several of our Governors and transient travellers have indeed given magnificent descriptions of Upper Canada, but the reader may conceive the difference of their sensations from mine. I feel a pleasure at the view of every well cultivated farm, as if it were my own; happier still shall I be, if any suggestions I may make in this work for awakening in the minds of Western Canadian Agriculturists, a zeal and love for the scientific Agriculture of the present day shall be successful.

The contemplation of the state of agriculture in Western Canada, is, thank God, far more pleasant than that of the Eastern portion. Here, we may often meet with lands yielding as well as in the old country, 25 to 30 bushels per acre; on new lands generally 40;

and sometimes on old lands, if under the hands of good farmers. The reputed average produced on the lands of all England, is stated to be 25 bushels per acre. This statement is from the historical register of an old date, but since that the great improvements in agricultural science of Davy, Liebig, Johnston and others, being now I believe much practised by the more intelligent farmers, the average yield of all England is probably increased. Of late years, indeed, I have heard that in many parts of this Province, from the effects of winter killings, rusts, &c., the average yield could not be considered more than 12 to 15 bushels per acre, and we shall in the course of this work endeavour to suggest remedies or preventatives of the above diseases.

I have, however, to premise that the present work is not to be considered as a set treatise on agriculture. I am well convinced that the established farmers in Western Canada, in general well acquainted with the general routine of agricultural practice as is best suited to the climate and the nature of the soils of their respective lands. I purpose therefore merely to give a brief statement of the mode of Agriculture generally practised; to suggest reasons for adopting such improvements as are practicable, and will be required by the change in our relations with Great Britain, as respects the duties on wheat imported. I shall also of-

fer suggestions, as above stated, for the prevention of some diseases which have of late years made their appearance to the great diminution of agricultural crops.

There are three hundred and twenty-six townships in Western Canada, besides numerous villages and settlements, according to Smith's Gazetteer, published in Toronto in 1846—a work, apparently of great merit and utility, and especially in the sound and just observations he makes on the folly of persons quitting this part of United Canada in the vain expectation of finding a "Paradise" in the United States. What he says in p. 258 of his work, on the subject of settlement in Canada is especially worthy of remembrance. "The settler, unless he has been guilty of the folly of planting himself down beyond the bounds of civilization and of roads, may always command a fair price, and cash for what he can raise, he need never be beyond the reach of medical attendance, churches, schools; he can obtain as much land as he need wish to purchase at a fair and moderate rate, he knows that whatever property he acquires is as secure as if he had it in England, his landed property, if he has any, is gradually increasing, and if he is only moderately careful, and industrious, he need have no anxiety for the future; his sons growing up, and as they grow, acquiring a knowledge

“ of the country and its customs, and of the
 “ mode of doing business in it, if steady, will
 “ find no difficulty in succeeding in any business
 “ they may select, or may be qualified for.”
 In confirmation of what he says on the increasing value of lands, in Western Canada, I can state a fact that came to my knowledge when I followed the business of a Land Agent some years since. A person gave me about 1000 acres to sell for him at 20s. per acre, about 30 miles north of Toronto. I told him one day I was offered 15s. Cy. per acre, which he refused, a gentleman standing by at the time, told him he thought he was losing by refusing, as the interest of his money was constantly increasing. Sir, said he, I can show you the contrary of that, for twenty-nine years ago, I gave only 1s. 3d. Cy. per acre for that land, and now I will not take less than 20s. On the subject of youth being brought up as Mr. Smith says above, “ steady,” I will mention another anecdote which occurred to me travelling in this Western Canada. Offering my late work on the Creation, for sale to an intelligent farmer; he said “ Yes, sir, I will buy your work if you will sell it cheap, for I believe it is a good one; and I will tell you why I buy it: it is because my opinion is, considering the present state of society and the world, that nothing will save it but the general distribution of good books among the rising generation, and I cer-

tainly believe if in any country it is wise in a parent to encourage in his sons a turn for the knowledge that good books will give him, it is in Canada, where youth not restrained by a love of useful knowledge, are in danger of seeking amusements from injurious sources." Mr. Smith states in his work, that in 1844 there were in the Upper Province two million seventeen thousand and 115 acres land under cultivation, 175,604 milch cows, 139,584 oxen and horned cattle over two years old.

We now come to consider, as proposed above, the present state of the Agriculture of this Western part of United Canada, both as to its present condition, and as relating to the very important change that has been announced is to take place in a short time, on the duties of grain exported to the parent state.

The mode of Agriculture generally pursued in Western Canada, though not yet arrived at the same state of perfection as in the Mother Country, is yet much superior to that of the Eastern part of the Province, that is to say, among the French Canadian Agriculturists. There, about one half of the arable land on each farm is sown down in wheat and oats, and then cattle is turned in to graze on natural grass on the other half, which is next season sown with grain, and the cattle turned on the stubble of the last year; by this mode all the manure the wheat and oats gets is that of a few half fed cattle grazing on the unsown land the pre-

vious year. The consequence has been that the lands, instead of producing 30 to 40 bushels of wheat per arpent (French acre) do now seldom yield an average of not more than 10, and often not near so much. In Western Canada, the general mode, as I am informed, is to sow wheat on the new land for a year or sometimes two, then fallow for wheat, after that oats, or rye, and when the land begins to fall off in produce it is seeded down for grass for a few years, which is found to restore the land. Still, it is not uncommon to hear of purchases of lands being made by persons coming into the Province, which are found to be nearly worn out. Now we know that lands in the Old Country which have been under cultivation for hundreds of years are still kept in what is called "good heart," by a proper system of Agriculture, that is, by a proper rotation of grain and green crops by liming or bone-dusting the land after a certain number of years.

It appears indeed that the mode of Agriculture in Western Canada, has been considered by its Legislature to stand in need of improvement, for an Act has been passed for encouraging Agricultural Societies, which provides :—

"That when any Agricultural Society for the purpose of importing any valuable stock, or whatever might conduce to the improvement of Agriculture, shall be constituted in any District of Upper Canada and shall make it appear by certificate under the hand of the Treasurer of such District Society that

the sum of not less than £25 has been actually subscribed and paid to the Treasurer by the several Agricultural Societies of such District, the President of said Society shall make application, enclosing the said certificate to the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, or person administering the government in the Province, to issue his Warrant to the Receiver General in favour of the Treasurer of said Society for treble the amount that shall have been paid or subscribed in such District aforesaid. Provided always, that the annual sum to be granted to each District shall not exceed the sum of £250."

These District Agricultural Societies in unison with the general or Provincial Society, have been, and probably will continue to be, of great use in diffusing an emulation through the Province. The improving the breeds of cattle is of great importance to its trade and commerce; but I have here to repeat the observation I made in page 14, when treating on the agriculture of Eastern Canada, namely, that I consider that the growth of wheat is by far the most important branch of agriculture. I here repeat, therefore, my opinion "that if a premium were given by these societies to the farmer who should produce the greatest number of bushels of wheat to the acre; a premium sufficiently large to make it an object for him to increase the number of ploughings and harrowings of the soil, and to add to this the rotation of fertilizing green crops; he would probably do so, and haying done so at

first with a view to this large prize or premium, (which perhaps should not be less than £10 or £12) on finding the profits of this mode by the greater yield of his land, he would adopt and continue this improved mode of agriculture on its own account.

It is certain that the extension of Agricultural Societies through the Province, could never have come in a more opportune time than the present. Ever since this Province has been settled, the mother country has received its agricultural produce into her ports, on a more favourable scale of duties than she did that of foreign nations. A great portion of the population of this Province must have come out to it, and invested their capital and their enterprise, their time and their labour in it,—on the strength of these regulations of the Mother Country; but within a year or two, great changes are making in her conduct in this particular. It is even stated in an Act of Parliament passed for this purpose, that in a month from the present time, all these favourable duties towards her colonies are to cease, and the wheat of all foreign nations is to be imported into Great Britain on equal terms with ours. If this change in the corn trade is really to take place, it is already incumbent on our agriculturists to discover means of meeting it, and perhaps there are none more likely to do so than increased production of the

soil, obtained by a general introduction of the modern system of agriculture. Fallowing the land has been a long time practised very generally in England. Of late years, however, it has been found to be a fact in Agriculture, that instead of losing the crop on the year of fallow, a crop of esculent vegetables, such as potatoes, turnips, especially Swedish turnips, &c., might be taken from the fallow ground, not only without diminishing the yield of the grain crop of the next year, but that the crop of grain was actually increased thereby. Another great advantage of rotation or green crops is the quantity of food for sale or for rearing cattle which they produce; and they are therefore now in general use in all great farming countries. And another advantage of these rotation crops, is derived from the greater quantity and richness of the cattle manure.

Liming or bone-dusting the land, is also found in the old countries to be a powerful means of increasing the products of the soil. This, I believe, is generally done; at least as to lime, once in seven years, and the quantity of lime probably slacked is from 200 to 300 bushels per acre, equal to half the quantity of stone lime. In the Eastern States of America, where liming is now coming generally into use, the quantity per acre does not, I believe, exceed 40 or 50 bushels, but the use off

it is found so beneficial, that, as it is stated by Judge Buel in his agricultural works, lime is often carted to the farm 12 or 15 miles. Now limestone abounds in many parts of Canada, and there is not a doubt, if judiciously used according to the nature of the soil, it will be found equally advantageous as it does in the old country, or in the states of America. There is another mode of manuring land practised with great effect in England and Scotland. This is by means of *compost heaps* or as they are called in Scotland *middies*. These are formed by alternate layers of vegetable mould or virgin earth, dung, ashes, fresh or spent, and lime. The percolation of the rains carries the solution of the lime or ashes through the compost heap; and some of these composts, if well prepared and turned, are said to be as efficacious on the soil as cattle manure. Now Canada offers most abundant means of making these composts. Black swampy soil is common on some part of almost every farm. This black earth is mostly composed of vegetable organic matter which the lime could not fail of converting into nutritive food for the crops, and by alternate layers of this black swampy soil, virgin earth, decayed branches, sweepings or rubbish of any kind, and cattle manure, always putting a sufficient quantity of lime between each layer of the above, I have not a doubt that very valuable compost heaps

might be formed. In fact, it is possible that the use of lime in this Province might be best employed by the means of these composts, at least in those parts of it in which limestone rock is not found and lime dear. Having now stated the means that I think would be very available in the present condition of our agricultural prospects in relation to Great Britain. I shall now as stated above, offer to the Agricultural reader some ideas on the subject of the recent disease in the potato crops, and on some of the diseases to which our wheat crops are too subject. In order to explain the origin of my ideas on these diseases, and of the means of cure which were thereby suggested to me, I have to relate a very singular agricultural experiment of which I had an authentic account in my tour through the Townships east of Montréal. As stated in my account above, of the Agriculture of Eastern Canada, a very destructive insect called the Wheat Fly, had for several years previous, and at the time of my tour through these townships, taken off almost the entire crops of wheat, some farmers losing one third, some one half, and some all their crops. Walking to my lodgings in one of these townships one evening, I fell in with a labourer on one of the farms on my road, and asking him whether he had grown any wheat on the farm he worked at, and what sort of a crop he had; he said he had a very

good crop; and on mentioning my surprise at this, as all the farms I had called upon from Montreal down, had lost most of their crops. The man, who was Yorkshire, said "I can't help that, I tell you we had a very good crop." Well, said I, I am glad to hear it, will you tell me how you managed to get so much better a crop than your neighbours? "Well," said he, "all I can say is, my mistress ordered me when the wheat was done flowering to choose a morning when there was plenty of dew on the ears, to take a bag of fresh slacked lime on my back and to throw it over the ears of the wheat, which I did, and I tell you we had a very good crop." Next day, an old acquaintance who owned a farm in the township gave me a cast in his gig, and on passing that lady's farm, I mentioned the conversation I had with the Yorkshireman. "The man told you the truth," said he, "that woman got 20 bushels to the acre of wheat, which considering the losses of her neighbours, was certainly a good crop." Now, as the wheat fly is said to have made its appearance in the eastern part of Western Canada, the above anecdote may be useful to its agriculturists.

It appears that this lady's wheat was neither attacked by the fly or the rust, and it being by no means an expensive experiment, I really consider it will be worthy of a trial against the rust, which is so often very destructive to

the wheat crops in Western Canada. But it would probably be required for the purpose of getting to the stalk of the wheat, with the lime dust, that the trenches should be made narrower for that purpose.

There are I believe, two theories of the cause of rust. One ascribes it to an insect; the other to atmospheric causes, to a hot burning sun after hot rains; and this last, I am inclined to believe, is the true cause, for I have observed that the rust comes on very soon after hot rains, and sudden heats ensuing them. But whichever of these be the real cause, the use of lime-dust fresh and strong is likely to be of service, for if the insect theory be correct, lime is a great destroyer of the insect tribes, and if the wheat could be coated with lime before these hot rains come on might it not protect the stalk from them? Lime is a tonic, and I conceive it would, by giving a tone to the stalk, prevent the hot sun from injuring its organization. At all events it seems to me on account of the great loss frequently arising from rust in Western Canada, lime-dusting is worth a trial.

Again, with respect to the potato disease, that mysterious destructive scourge which within this few years has made its appearance, I believe in all parts of the world where the plant grows; which seems to defy the skill of

our best agriculturists and also of the scientific philosopher. Sometimes it has been ascribed to a natural decay or destruction of the vital powers of the plant. Borrowing their arguments from Geology, those who maintain this opinion, tell us that fossil plants which are found to have existed at one period of the earth's age have disappeared in another, and they suppose the same is to be the case with the potato, but, if this were the case, if the vitality of the potato was over, it would be the case with all potatoes, but we know that in different parts of the same country some fields of potatoes of the same kind as those which had perished in other places remain entirely uninjured. It is true, that the cause of this general disease cannot be ascribed to either soil or climate, because it is found to have taken place in every kind of soil and climate. The disease has also been ascribed by some, to an insect, but, as the smallest insect can be discerned by powerful microscopes, if that cause were generally true, it would before this have been generally known and allowed. There is one observation I wish to make on this disorder of the potato. As it is found to take place at the same time almost all over the world, may it not be owing to some general change in the composition of our earth's atmosphere; to the accession of some gaseous matters which it did not formerly contain.

I have not heard that any analysis of the atmosphere of any country where the disease has prevailed, has been made, with a view to detect its cause; but considering the universality of this disease, I should think such analysis well worthy the attention of men of science, especially, when we reflect on the dreadful effects of the loss of this plant to countries where it forms a great part of the sustenance of their inhabitants, for example, our unfortunate fellow subjects in Ireland and Scotland; for should it be possible to discover or detect any noxious gas in the atmosphere, it is also possible that some decomposing antidote might also be found to render that gas innoxious.

To conclude this subject of remedial measures in the above diseases, in wheat and the potato, I have to state that it was on account of the agricultural fact, I have above stated, I had met with in the Townships east of Montreal, that I formed an idea that the potato disease might perhaps be prevented by means of lime having observed that the disease of the potato, sometimes came on about the same time as the rust in wheat. I considered it might be from a similar cause as stated in a foregoing page, warm rains and then a hot sun affecting the organization of the plant. This idea I formed in the fall of 1846, and in the course of the ensuing winter I was agreeably surprised, to find it stated in an English paper

that the Surgeon of the Bank of England a gentleman who it appears, lectures on scientific subjects to several societies, stated that the disease of the potato was caused by an insect called the "Vastator"; that they might be entirely destroyed by the use of lime-dusting, which was the very idea I had formed in 1846, the only difference between us being that he stated the underside of the plant must be limed as well as the upper. This gentleman spoke of this remedy as a perfectly certain one. It has been also stated in the English papers, that a farmer had planted three separate acres with potatoes, alongside of each other, two of them without lime, and one with 200 bushels of lime, harrowed into the soil, and that the two without lime were all rotted, but the acre with the lime was entirely uninjured.

To prevent the Rot in the Potato.

From the *Patriot*, 12th May, 1848.

Spread a little slacked lime under the seed, and cover the seed about two inches deep, then spread more lime upon the whole surface of the field to the amount of 100 bushels slacked lime per acre. What is put on the surface may be rock, but what is put under the seed must be slacked. I have tried the above for the last three successive years, and have not found one rotten potato, when the lime was applied, although my neighbours lost great

quantities by the rot the same years, and not only so, but on two other crops. I tried a part of the same field with lime, and another part without it, and lost the greater part of my crop by the rot, for want of lime, for though the unlimed part of the field was as productive as that which was limed, yet at the last of Nov. three-fourths of the produce was lost by rot. Future crops will be improved by the liming, for 5 or 6 years after. A farmer states in the *New York Evangelist*, that the addition of half a pint of lime to each hill increased his crop of potatoes at the rate of 100 bushels to the acre, more than those planted in a similar soil without lime. Two farmers known to the subscriber, who applied lime, declare they had not one rotten potato, although the most of their neighbours lost heavily.

(Signed,)

JOHN MARTIN.

Hemmingford, Eastern Townships, Canada East, }
May 1st, 1848.

Thus I have the pleasure of finding a remedy I had recommended to many farmers two summers since, is confirmed as above.

I have to make the same observation on the use of lime therefore for the potato, as I have above on the subject of rust in wheat, that whether it be caused by insects or the atmosphere, lime is likely to do good, either by destroying the insect, or giving a tone and stren-

gth to the plant, to enable it to resist the atmospheric cause. I now conclude this part of the subject, hoping that some of our more intelligent and industrious farmers will give a fair trial to the foregoing suggestions for finding a remedy for the very destructive diseases which annually destroy a great amount of agricultural produce, and will here take the opportunity of offering one more suggestion concerning another disease which often attends crops of fall wheat, namely what is called here "winter killing." This often commits such ravages in fall wheat crops, that the farmers are obliged to sow spring wheat in the spring in their room.

Now I have heard many years ago, that in some parts of the Eastern States they avoid this winter killing, by ploughing in their seed when sown in the fall. But whether this would answer in Western Canada, I leave for our farmers to determine, though I should concieve it ought to answer here as well as there.*

* I wish also to give one observation on the Hessian Fly, and a certain grub which has lately begun to damage the wheat crop in Western Canada. These insects are just as likely to be destroyed by fresh slacked lime-dusting, as the wheat fly or rust above stated to be prevented thereby, and as the wheat could be much more easily got at, at the period when insects attack the plant, the attention of farmers is particularly called upon to this remedial experiment. Probably if the lime be laid on before the insect comes it might prevent them; or if later it might destroy them.

I wish also to make another observation on the unavoidable necessity that will arise, (should the event I have before mentioned respecting wheat and flour, exported to Great Britain, from Canada, take place,) for the Agriculturists of Canada to adopt a more productive system of Agriculture. This is I believe only to be found, by the skilful use of the plough and harrow, liming the soil, green or rotation crops, abundant manuring by cattle, dung and urine by well formed compost heaps, or middies, so called in Scotland, or by the proper use of such artificial manures as have been lately discovered and now much used in the old countries, which are adapted to each particular kind of soil, as shown in late books on Agricultural Chemistry. Among the modes of fertilizing the soil, perhaps a judicious liming of it is one of the most successful; for without liming the soil, it is generally allowed, that the old country farmer could not pay his heavy rents, tithes, and taxes. But if the above named event take place in the wheat trade to Great Britain a like obligation for productive agriculture will press upon the Canadians, as upon the farmer in the old country. In many parts of Canada, nature has freely offered to the agriculturists the means of fostering and restoring his soil by great formations of limestone. And in order to show to agriculturists of Canada, the great value of liming their soil,

and of rotation crops of turnips and potatoes, &c., I shall quote one of the highest and best authorities that modern agriculture can boast of. Professor Liebig, of the University of Giessen, in Germany, says in his 13th Familiar Letter on Chemistry, in relation to Commerce, Physiology, and Agriculture :

MY DEAR SIR,—Having in my last letter spoken of the general principles upon which the science and art of agriculture must be based, let me now direct your attention to some of those particulars which will more forcibly exhibit the connection between chemistry and agriculture, and demonstrate the impossibility of perfecting the important art of rearing food for man and animals without a profound knowledge of our science.

All plants cultivated as food require for their healthy sustenance the alkalies and alkaline earths, each in a certain proportion; and in addition to these, the ceralia do not succeed in a soil destitute of *silica* in a soluble condition. The combinations of this substance found as natural productions, namely, the silicates, differ greatly in the degree of facility with which they undergo decomposition, in consequence of the unequal resistance opposed by their integral parts to the dissolving power of the atmospheric agencies. Thus the granite of Corsica degenerates into a powder in a time which scarcely suffices to deprive the polished granite of Heidelberg of its lustre.

Some soils abound in silicates so readily decomposable, that in every one or two years, as much silicate of potash becomes soluble and fitted for assimilation as is required by the leaves and straw

of a crop of wheat. In Hungary, extensive districts are not uncommon where wheat and tobacco have been grown alternately upon the same soil for centuries, the land never receiving back any of those mineral elements which were withdrawn in the grain and straw. On the other hand, there are fields in which the necessary amount of soluble silicate of potash for a single crop of wheat is not separated from the insoluble masses in the soil in less than two, three, or even more years.

The term *fallow*, in agriculture, designates that period in which the soil, left to the influence of the atmosphere, becomes enriched with those soluble mineral constituents. Fallow, however, does not generally imply an entire cessation of cultivation, but only an interval in the growth of the *ceralia*. That store of silicates and alkalies which is the principal condition of their success is obtained, if potatoes or turnips are grown upon the same fields in the intermediate periods, since these crops do not abstract a particle of silica, and therefore leave the field equally fertile for the following crop of wheat.

The preceding remarks will render it obvious to you, that the mechanical working of the soil is the simplest and cheapest method of rendering the elements of nutrition contained in it accessible to plants.

But it may be asked, are there not other means of decomposing the soil besides its mechanical subdivision? are there not substances, which by their chemical operation shall equally well or better render its constituents suitable for entering into vegetable organisms? Yes; we certainly possess such substances, and one of them, namely, quick-lime, has been employed for the last century past in En-

land for this purpose, and it would be difficult to find a substance better adapted to this service, as it is simple, and in almost all localities cheap and easily accessible.

In order to obtain correct views respecting the effect of quick-lime upon the soil, let me remind you of the first process employed by the chemist when he is desirous of analyzing a mineral, and for this purpose wishes to bring its elements into a soluble state. Let the mineral to be examined be, for instance, feldspar; this substance, taken alone, even when reduced to the finest powder, requires for its solution to be treated with an acid for weeks or months; but if we first mix it with quick-lime, and expose the mixture to a moderately strong heat, the lime enters into chemical combination with certain elements of the feldspar, and its alkali (potass) is set free. And now the acid, even without heat, dissolves not only the lime but also so much of the silica of the feldspar as to form a transparent jelly. The same effect which the lime in this process with the aid of heat, exerts upon the feldspar, it produces when it is mixed with the alkaline argillaceous silicates, and they are for a long time kept together in a moist state.

Common potters' clay, or pipe-clay, diffused through water, and added to milk of lime, thickens immediately upon mixing; and if the mixture is kept for some months, and then treated with acid, the clay becomes gelatinous, which it would not have done without the admixture with the lime. The lime, in combining with the elements of the clay liquefies it; and what is more remarkable, liberates the greater part of its alkalies. These interesting facts were first observed by Fuchs, at

Munich: they have not only led to a more intimate knowledge of the nature and properties of the hydraulic cements, but what is far more important, they explain the effects of caustic lime upon the soil, and guide the agriculturist in the application of an invaluable means of opening it, and setting free its alkalies—substances so important, nay, so indispensable to his crops.

In the month of October the fields of Yorkshire and Oxfordshire look as if they were covered with snow. Whole square miles are seen whitened over with quicklime, which, during the moist winter months, exercises its beneficial influence upon the stiff, clayey soil of those counties.

According to the humus theory, quick-lime ought to exert the most noxious influence upon the soil, because all organic matters contained in it are destroyed by it, and rendered incapable of yielding their humus to a new vegetation. The facts are indeed directly contrary to this now abandoned theory; the fertility of the soil is increased by the lime.

The ceralia require the alkalies and alkaline silicates, which the action of the lime renders fit for assimilation by the plants. If, in addition to these, there is any decaying organic matter present in the soil supplying carbonic acid, it may facilitate their development; but it is not essential to their growth. If we furnish the soil with ammonia, and the phosphates, which are indispensable to the ceralia, with the alkaline silicates, we have all the conditions necessary to ensure an abundant harvest. The atmosphere is an inexhaustible store of carbonic acid.

I shall now merely add to this extract from Liebig, that although the quantity of slacked

lime that is generally used in England is from 200 to 300 bushels an acre ploughed in ; yet in parts of this Province where limestone formations are not found, and lime consequently dear, the quantity per acre might be diminished to 40 or 50 bushels per acre, which is what they put on in the States, where this quantity is found by the farmers to be of great service to the crops.

I now proceed to the next part stated in the Prospectus, namely, the best mode of advancing the agricultural interests of the Province by means of a valuable market for its produce. thereby augmenting its commerce, its resources and capabilities for public improvements.

In my work on the present condition of the Canadas, published in Montreal some years since, I stated that being (when living in Halifax) one of the Board of Trade, we had to send to the British Colonial Government, complaining year after year that our trade in fish and lumber to our West India Islands was nearly ruined on account of American vessels resorting in such numbers to that market, for nigh twenty years we continued to send home these complaints but could get no redress and it was not until we sent home documents from our Custom House that the British North American Colonies were competent to supply the full amount of fish annually consumed in the British West Indies, that we got the Am-

ericans excluded from them with that article, and this exclusion lasted some years. On account of these documents, the West India Planters no longer opposed the exclusion, so I contend that on the repeal of the Corn Laws of Great Britain, which as stated in a late act of Parliament is to take place on February 1st, 1849, Canada has an equally strong claim on the British Government for the total supply of our West India Islands with breadstuffs, flour and provisions of all kinds, when we are competent to prove by sufficient documents that the Mother Country and her North American Colonies can furnish the entire supply of those articles to our West India Islands. The only argument I have heard against this proposition, is that it is contrary to the theory of what is called "Free Trade". But I trust to have shown in the above mentioned work, that the trade to the West Indies will not come under that objection. That trade is merely a trade of *supply*. *Free Trade* is when goods being imported into a country, are so imported, with a view to re-export them to some other ports when the supply exceeds the demand. But a planter in the West Indies does not buy flour and provisions with any such view: he merely buys as much as is required for the supply of his estates in the Island. The trade is therefore one merely of supply, and providing that supply is equal to

the demand, it matters not to the planters whether it is furnished by foreigners or solely by the parent state, and her North American Colonies; and if the supply exceeds the demand of that Island, the cargoes are taken to another for sale. Americans no more than other people will dispose of their property if it will not yield a freight to their vessels, if they can find another market that will do so. The case is the same, if we take into view the whole of these Islands; if the supplies there greatly exceed the demand, they are unsaleable except at ruinous prices, therefore they are either withheld or withdrawn. Providing therefore that the British Colonies can prove to the satisfaction of the West India Planters that they are competent to supply them, the only effect of an exclusion of foreign vessels from that supply would be that the competition in the sale of these supplies would be between our own shippers thereof, instead of being between them and American shippers.

I have one observation however, to make on the Free Trade. In the above-named work I said it was advantageous within a certain limit. This impassible limit I stated to be, the preservation of our *Naval power*. "The defence of a nation," says Adam Smith, in his immortal work, *The Wealth of Nations*, "is of higher importance to a nation than its commerce. Where indeed would the commerce of Great

Britain soon be, if she could not defend it on the seas. We see at this moment what the feelings and the opinions of the ship-owners of England are on this subject. I have for some time observed with astonishment the free and easy manner with which our navigation laws have been treated, not only by some of the great apostles of free trade, but even by some of our ministers at home, who in my opinion ought to have viewed that great palladium of our *liberties*, and *perhaps* of the liberties of the world, in a more solemn and serious manner. Thank God, it is probable that the unlooked for events which have now taken place in France will bring them to their senses in the above particular. Is the present government of Great Britain prepared in this situation of her powerful neighbour to resist the voice of her commercial marine, of what may be called the soul and body of her naval prowess? If so, perhaps it would be better for them to pause and reflect, and survey the vast consequences, they will probably have to encounter, unless, therefore, ministers have some regulations in view by which British vessels can carry goods as cheap as foreign nations, the navigation laws cannot be done away with with safety to the nation.

Whatever advantages, however, may in general result from free trade when restrained with-

in the above limits, its effects on the sugar trade of the West Indies appear to have been fatally severe on these Islands. In downright opposition to the principles of humanity which led Great Britain to emancipate all the slaves, the British Government first liberates slave-grown sugar from extra duties, and finding that act is bringing down ruin on her own West India Colonies she is about to retrace her steps to prevent the disaster. There can be no doubt that if humanity requires that slavery should be abolished, it is equally required that extra duties should exist on slave-grown sugar with a view to discourage and discountenance slavery in other countries. Now on the subject of free labour in the West Indies, above thirty years ago, I mentioned when in Halifax to a West India planter who arrived there, that I was surprised some plan was not fallen upon to import free Negroes from Africa to hire for working on the West India estates. After all the obstacles that have been thrown in the way of that most natural mode of working their plantations, it now appears it is likely to come into practice, and it is a right that the West Indies appear to me to have a just and positive claim to.

We return now to our claim for the trade of supplies of those Islands. As I have before stated, ever since Western Canada was first settled the scale of duties on wheat and other

grain has been more favourable to that of the British Colonies, than to that of foreign nations. In consequence of this, a great part of the Province has rapidly increased in settlement, and there can be no doubt that a great portion of her settlers have come out on the faith of these more favourable duties, and devoted their capital, their time, and their labour to the cultivation of land in it. If, therefore, from any cause whatever, the parent state intends to do away with this preference of Canadian produce in her markets, the Province has undoubtedly a claim on that parent state for remuneration; for the loss of property, time, and labour, which she will suffer in consequence of this change.

When Great Britain determined to abolish the slave trade in her West India Colonies, the great argument that was employed against it, was the National sin which had been for ages committed by the slave trade. Yet, notwithstanding this they allowed West India Planters 20 millions sterling as a compensation for the loss of their slaves. Now we in Canada have committed no such sin, why then have we not an equal or rather a much stronger claim on the parent state for compensation for the loss of that protective scale of duties which has induced the agriculturists of Canada to invest their time and labour in settling the Province. It is, I conceive, evident that if the British Corn Laws

are abrogated, wheat and flour shipped to Great Britain will not compensate our agriculturists ; the consequence will be, and indeed it is now supposed by some as about to take place, that the American Government will remit the duties on wheat from Canada provided it be ground in the American Mills. The first consequence of this will probably be a very considerable damage to the mills of the Province. For it will probably induce the wheat-holders of Western Canada to send their wheat to the States ; and another consequence of vastly higher importance will ensue that if our agriculturists are shut out from the British Markets, and thus drawn to that of the States, England may ultimately lose her hold on their attachment.

The general loyalty and attachment of this Province to the Parent State, has, on every occasion that called it forth, been proved beyond a doubt. The causes of this have arisen, first, from a natural attachment of many to the country of their birth, and secondly, from the admiration of others for the excellence of the British Constitution, as the best, most powerful, and permanent guardian of our rights and liberties. But we cannot but refer some part of this loyalty and attachment to the great advantage which the Agricultural produce of the Colony has derived from the more favourable scale of duties over those

on foreign produce, as hitherto acted upon by Great Britain.

Now, independently of the attachment I myself feel, and hope I always shall feel for the parent state—I firmly believe that our present relation with it is the one best adapted, (and more especially in the present state of the world,) to preserve the security, and promote the welfare and advancement of United Canada. I believe, moreover, that by the exertion of due wisdom and energy, this United Canada is entirely competent, with its present relation to Great Britain, to stand and to thrive on its own resources without the necessity of seeking the aid of the United States or any foreign nation at all. I trust to be able to prove this proposition, and that there is a good market in our own Colonies for a great part of the surplus wheat of Canada.

If I prove *that* in the course of this work, I may fairly ask, Why run the risk of losing or at least diminishing the attachment of our agriculturists for the parent state, by compelling them to seek a market in the States?

Conversing lately with a respectable and intelligent inhabitant of this Town of London on this subject, he observed that there would be no necessity for our agriculturists to send their wheat to the States, for that the merchant who bought it, would have to send it for a market to Great Britain. It is said, however,

that these merchants often offer higher prices for our wheat than our own merchants, and a principal cause assigned for this is, that freights to Great Britain are lower from the States than from Canada to Great Britain. Now that cause, it appears to me, could be by proper exertion annulled. We certainly can build ships in Canada as cheap as Americans can in the States. If then the freights demanded by owners of British vessels from hence to Great Britain are found too high, the natural remedy for that would appear to be to build ships in Canada to carry our wheat or flour to Great Britain, and thus reduce the price of freights. And this building of Canadian ships would certainly answer as long as the prices of freights are found sufficient to give those vessels a sufficient remuneration.

We shall now proceed in our endeavour to prove the proposition we have advanced in the preceding page, namely, that by the exertion of due wisdom and energy, United Canada is entirely competent with its present relation to Great Britain to stand and to thrive on its own resources, without the necessity of seeking the aid of the United States, or other foreign nations, and that there is a good and sufficient market in the British Colonies, for a great part of the surplus wheat that Canada can spare. We shall first state the minimum and maximum deficiency of wheat generally arising in Great

Britain, of the quantity annually required for the consumption of her population. We shall then show the quantities that can be procured from other nations to make good the deficiency, showing thereby the small chance of a remunerating market in Great Britain for the surplus wheat of Canada, if the Corn Laws are to be entirely abrogated and done away with.

Being in London during the years 1829 to 1834, I there learnt that at that time the annual quantity of wheat grown in Great Britain amounted to about seventeen million of quarters, or 136 millions of bushels. A short time previously, Mr. Jacobs was sent by the British House of Commons to collect information in all the Grain Markets of the world, as to the quantity of wheat that could be therefrom obtained in case the British Corn Laws should be done away with. Mr. Jacobs in his report stated that if Great Britain were to fall short of her annual produce of wheat one million of quarters she could not obtain them at that time from all the world. We shall therefore estimate the minimum deficiency of her annual product of wheat at and about the above period of 1829 to 1834, at half a million of quarters, or four million of bushels, equal to eight hundred thousand barrels of flour. Since the above period the potato disease has made its appearance, and I believe that from 4 to 5 million quarters of foreign wheat have annually, for the last two

or three years been imported into Great Britain to make good the deficiency of food occasioned by that potato disease. We shall therefore estimate the maximum of the deficiency in the wheat crops of Great Britain at 4 millions of quarters or 32 millions of bushels, equal to 6½ million barrels of flour, and the average annual deficiency of the above period, from 34 to 48 would be little less than 1 million quarters or 8 million bushels, equal to 1,600,000 brls. of flour.

We shall now attempt to show what foreign nations by this average deficiency of 1 million of quarters of wheat is obtained from, which will probably present to our view a very small chance for a market for the surplus produce of Canadian Agriculturists. In the *British Colonist* of May 9th 1848, there are two statements of the quantities of wheat and other grain in the various ports of Europe ready for exportation, amounting to nearly 6 million quarters of which at least three and a half million quarters were wheat.

Amount of Grain exported from the following countries.—

From the BRITISH COLONIST, May 9, 1848

Russia in the Black Sea,	16,000,000
Do. in the Danube,	12,000,000
Do. in Northern Ports	4,000,000
Egypt and Syria,	4,000,000
Russian, Pomania, & Danish } Ports in the Baltic,	1,000,000

37,000,000 bushels.

Or one-eighth is

4,625,000 quarters

Table representing the quantity of wheat for exportation at the principal Corn Ports of Europe.

Grain market.	Quarters.	Price per Qr. on shipboard.	Freight to England.
St. Petersburg,	192,500	39s. 1d.	4s. 8d.
Lisbon,	30,000	43s. 7d.	4s. 0d.
Odessa,	150,000	26s. 0d.	10s. 0d.
Warsaw,	380,000	36s. 6d.	3s. 9d.
Stockholm,	1,900	32s. 6d.	4s. 9d.
Dantzic,	315,000	42s. 6d.	5s. 0d.
Koningsberg,	65,000	42s. 6d.	5s. 0d.
Stettin,	250,000	40s. 0d.	4s. 6d.
Memel,	5,000	35s. 0d.	4s. 3d.
Elseneur,	125,000	33s. 0d.	4s. 3d.
Hamburg,	538,000	40s. 0d.	3s. 9d.
P lermo,	250,000	38s. 0d.	8s. 3d.
	2,302,400	40s. 9d.	4s. 9d.
		Average.	Average.

Amounts brought down 4,625,000 Quarters all Grain.
and 2,302,400 Quarters Wheat.

6,927,400 Qrs. Grain & Wheat

Deduct Russian and Danish
Ports in the Baltic being
twice stated above, 972,500

5,954,900 Qr. Grain & Wheat

Grain of all kinds from United
States of America, 5,000,00.

10,954,900 Qrs. Grain for ex-
portation in Europe and America.

In the same paper an account was given of
the quantity of wheat which was for exportation
in the United States, being 40 millions of bushels

or 5 million of quarters, which, added to the above stated 5,954,000, gives 10,954,000 qrs. grain importable from all foreign countries. Besides this, not less than ten million quarters of Indian corn is stated in the above document as for exportation from the United States. It is to be observed also, that although the quantity of wheat produced annually in Great Britain is stated above to have been 17 million quarters in 1834, there is every probability, owing to the increase in the population since the great improvements in agriculture, the average annual produce is probably now not less than 20 million-quarters, also, to the above quantity of wheat that is importable, from foreign countries it is to be added that a considerable quantity can be imported from some other ports in the Mediterranean. I trust therefore it will appear pretty evident that if the British Corn Laws are abrogated, or if the duties on foreign wheat are much diminished, (which in the present state of Europe it is highly probable they must, if the entire abrogation does not take place) I say, I trust it will appear pretty evident as I proposed to show above that there will be a very small chance of a market "In Great Britain any way remunerating to Canadian wheat growers."

We have now to proceed with what we consider to be our claim for the exclusive supply of our West Indies as a remedy

for the loss of these markets of Great Britain. We have stated in the foregoing pages that the wheat of these North American Colonies has always hitherto been received in the ports of Great Britain on a much more favourable scale of duties than that of foreign nations. While Canadian wheat was paying only five shillings sterling a quarter, I have known foreign wheat in some instances to pay twenty to twenty-five shillings the quarter. I have stated also in the foregoing pages that numbers of the agricultural and commercial parts of the population have come out to Canada and invested their capitals, their time and their labour in the pursuits of agriculture and trade on the faith of the duration of the protective duties on the products of the Province. Now the Americans have deprived us for many years of all chance in the trade of supplying provisions to our West India Islands. I have been told by Montreal and Quebec merchants that it was almost certain ruin to embark in that trade, to any extent. Our surplus produce has therefore been generally shipped to Great Britain either in wheat or flour. From this market, as we have shown above, we are now to be soon shut out, and if foreign nations are thus to be allowed the supply of the markets of Great Britain free of duty, they may well afford to give us up, and cannot complain if the British Government

reserves the supply of our colonies in the West Indies to herself and her North American Colonies. The quantity of wheat required for the annual consumption of our British West Indies, was, according to Bryan Edward's History of the West Indies, twelve hundred thousand bushels of wheat, or two hundred and forty thousand barrels of flour. Since that time the emancipation of the slaves has taken place, who are now receiving, as I am informed, 3s. to 4s. currency per day and can therefore afford to buy flour and salt provisions. The consumption of flour is therefore increased, probably to three hundred and fifty thousand barrels of flour and biscuit. The quantity of wheat exported from United Canada in the year 1846, was five hundred and forty-five thousand, six hundred and two barrels, of flour, and 534,747 bushels wheat, equal to 106,949 barrels flour; in all, six hundred and sixty-two thousand, five hundred and fifty-one barrels flour; and the last year, 1847, the amount shipped was probably one-fourth more.

Here then, is evident proof of United Canada being able to supply the annual demand for flour in our West India Colonies, without taking into the account any supplies of it from Great Britain or from the other North American Colonies. Our Canals down to Montreal are now opened and ready for Navigation, a steamer has this spring passed from Chicago

to Montreal, with 3000 barrels flour, which has passed through Canada, so that a vessel loaded with provisions, to say Flour, Biscuit, Beef, Pork, &c., from the most Western parts of Western Canada, for the West Indies and starting early in the spring, might well make two voyages out there and home, during the spring, summer, and autumn.

This trade is then the remedy that we conceive will compensate in a great part for the loss of the markets of G. B. to United Canada in the event of the British Corn Laws being abrogated. I have not a doubt that well assorted cargoes of provisions would meet a fair market in our West India Colonies, for considerable part of the surplus wheat of the Province. But this trade is recommended solely on the understanding that the parent state and the British Colonies shall have secured to them the exclusive trade of supply of those Colonies. As has been stated in the forgoing pages, I certainly conceive that the North American Colonies have a fair and just claim for remuneration from the British Government for the loss of their protecting duties on flour and wheat, which have for years induced many persons to invest their capital and labour in the trade and agriculture of this Province. The West India Planters have had an immense remuneration allowed them for the em-

anticipation of their slaves, £20,000,000, stg. The agriculturist, also of England have had some compensation allowed them in late arrangements of Agricultural affairs ; and if the Corn Laws be really abrogated they will probably receive much more compensation. Canada has an equal right to put in her claim for some remuneration. If she does not claim money remuneration she has at least a fair and just claim for the supply of our West India Colonies, providing she can prove to the satisfaction of the British Government and the West India Islands that with the Parent State and the other British North American Colonies, she is perfectly competent to furnish the annual supplies required.

I have heard it suggested that there would not be a sufficient market in this Province for the return cargoes, in the event of this trade of supply being secured to us. But it is to be observed that the Markets of all the other N. A. Colonies are open to us, and that should that not be sufficient, part of the return cargoes might be shipped home or to any other market deemed most advantageous.

It is true that our West India Colonies have been for some time labouring under great depression in their commercial concerns. Steps however, are now being taken to remedy this. They have just had nigh £200,000 advanced them to facilitate the importation of labourers

from India, and it appears to me highly probable that ere long the schedule of duties on free labour sugar will have a preference allowed over slave grown sugar. The British Government has gone to great expense to put a stop to the slave trade, and the means she has employed have not been very successful. Now one would suppose that an effectual way of discouraging slavery, would be to charge, if not a prohibitory, at least a heavy duty on all slave-grown productions. But another means of relieving the West India Planters, is the importation of free Negro labour from Africa. I believe that in spite of all the opposition this has met with that it will eventually be conceded to the West India Colonies, and under judicious management will probably enable the W. I. Islands to cope with slave-grown sugar. It is said that the present stock of emancipated slaves in the Islands will work only days sufficient in the week to give them food. But if importations of free negroes were made from Africa, the price of labour would probably decrease, and their necessities would oblige them to a fair day's labour. The price of labour there, as I am informed, is high at present.

And now referring the reader to the arguments in the foregoing pages in support of the claim of United Canada on the British Government for the boon of the trade of supply of our

West India Colonies with flour and bread-stuffs and provisions, we submit the same to the intelligence of the mercantile and agricultural community of the province. The merchants of the Eastern part of it must be aware, that if the wheat of Upper Canada is to go to the United States for a market, it will very materially affect the trade and commerce of these parts of the United Province, and the merchants and agriculturists of Western Canada may possibly find on examination, they are likely to meet a much better market for their flour should the trade of supply of the West Indies be secured to British America, than is likely to be found for any duration of time in the United States. It is at any rate very evident, that by this trade our mills and our canals will not be deprived of employment, but will be turned to account, and furnish labour for many valuable mechanics and workmen. By this trade also, the risk will be avoided of weakening the attachment of our agriculturists to the parent state, a circumstance which, from their tried loyalty, will be duly appreciated.

And I trust I may conclude this part of our subject, with hoping that I have proved the propositions stated in a former part of this work, namely, that by the exertion of due wisdom and energy, United Canada is competent in its present relation to Great Britain to stand and to thrive on its own resources,

without the necessity of seeking the aid of the United States, for that by the proposed regulations of our India trade, a good market will be found in our West India Colonies for a great portion of the surplus flour of the Province.

I have, therefore, with due humiitiy, to offer the above considerations to the Boards of Trade and the mercantile community. It will be for them to determine whether the trade of supply proposed will be advantageous in the coming event of the change in the Corn Trade of Great Britain, and whether it will not be prudent and wise to appeal to the British Government for the remunerating boon proposed. Should they determine in the affirmative. I beg leave to suggest that there appear to me two modes by which this appeal may be made, the one is by a memorial from the Boards of trade direct to the Imperial Government, the other by memorial from these bodies to the Provincial Legislature, praying for their influence in obtaining the boon from the home government and I should suppose that on a clear statement of the advantages this trade of supply would yield to the Province the patriotism of the Legislature would lead them to give their aid in obtaining the boon.

I cannot close this part of our prospectus without a few remarks on the steps now taking by the American Government or Legislature

to draw the wheat trade of Canada to their ports. I have in the foregoing pages endeavored to show the evil effects that may result from the success of these measures to this Province and its commerce and manufactures. Wheat it appears has lately brought a better price in the States than in Canada; I have already stated that it was probable one cause of this is, that the freights of wheat and flour to Great Britain are lower there than they are from Canada. I wish therefore to call the attention of the mechanics and shipbuilders of the Province to what I have above surmised, that vessels can be built, fed and manned in Canada as cheap as in the United States, If that opinion be correctly founded, would not the building of Canadian vessels to carry home our surplus produce enable our merchants to give as high a price for flour and wheat as the Americans, and thus secure a very extensive branch of trade to the Province? Should the building of Canadian vessels for that purpose be likely to pay. I should conceive there would be little difficulty (if respectable companies were formed) in obtaining loans of sufficient capital in Great Britain for the above purpose.

The next article in our Prospectus is that of the greatly important subject of the education of our youth, and especially in the modern discoveries in agricultural science.

On approaching this subject I must say it is with a great deal of diffidence. The numerous productions that have appeared on general education attest its high importance, and as the details of it have been accurately treated on by able pens, I shall only state an idea of two important purposes which our educational system ought to be brought in support of, but shall be more particular on that part of the instruction of our youth in the science of modern Agriculture.

After the patriotic mind has employed his talents in endeavouring to advance the prosperity of its cotemporaries it will find a most ample field for these talents in the improvement of education. "Train up a child in the way he should go (says the scripture) and when he is old he will not depart from it." "'Tis education forms the youthful mind" (says the admirable poet Thompson) "just as the twig is bent the tree's inclined." The experienced and philanthropic man therefore who extends his wishes to the well-being of future generations, cannot lay a surer foundation for it than in the moral, religious and intelligent education of the one now rising up before him.

In the present state of a great part of the world in particular, when so many are led astray by the wildest and most fantastic doctrines, although these have been severely tested in the crucible of experience and been found

totally wanting ; for example, the extravagant proceedings very lately taken place in France a country that after wading through revolutions and wars occasioned by them for half a century, during which she tried a republic which involved her citizens in blood and ruin, and finally in despotism, settled at last on her own accord on a " Citizen King." This citizen king ruled the country for 17, years and certainly brought it during that time to a much more quiet and respectable state among the nations than it had been for many previous years. He it is true attempted to stop the progress of Reform, but that might have been in time overcome by the exertions of the electoral rights of the people, if they wished that reform; that is, if the people had had stability enough to adhere to the form of government they had solemnly adopted. They have now returned to a republic, and all I have to say on this subject is, that it would perhaps have been well for them, if they had looked first into their own celebrated writer on the various constitutions of the world. I mean Montesquieu in his *Spirit of the Laws*." They would then find that the basis of a republic is "virtue." Now, was not the want of that virtue during the revolution that produced the first republic, the cause of the total failure of that republic? The first Girondins were sufficiently virtuous to maintain a republic, but were they not brought to

destruction by the selfish ambition of opposite parties, and did not these parties in their turn suffer the same fate by the same means, and do we not see almost the very same process now going on in this republic of 1848? One great advantage of a kingly government is that the crown being hereditary, there need be no violent agitation, convulsions and civil war for a successor. But in a country like France, where all is to be equality, almost every man may conceive he has an equal right to rule, and where one man is to be found who would wish to rule for virtue's sake, on patriotic motives, there would probably be in that country thousands that would be stimulated solely by self-interest and ambition. Led on by these passions, they will take advantage of the present ruling idea that everything is to be done by the popular voice to criminate and destroy the present ruling patriots. Already Lamartine, one of the most energetic of these, has been denounced by the clubbists as a traitor, and though they are at present in a minority they will probably not cease their restless agitation till they succeed in misleading and inflaming the populace to overthrow their opponents. It is evident then that France has not that portion of public virtue which constitutes the indispensable basis of a republic. Now, in this third volcanic eruption which has set the rest

of Europe in a blaze it is a grand sight to observe the firm consistency Old England has maintained. The glorious tenth of April, will strike a salutary terror into all who seek to overthrow her institutions ; and it was in order to show the high value of the stability of a nation's mind that I have made this digression on the late events in Europe. It was to show how important it is, to instil this stability of mind into the rising generation by means of our educational system. Let our youth be instructed by proper historical knowledge ; let them learn the true nature of the British Constitution ; how it is competent to redress all real national grievances without convulsion, and they will acquire attachment for it, which will probably constitute one of the most powerful elements of their future happiness. This then is one of the important purposes which as I stated above, I conceive our educational system should be brought to support. The second purpose is the objects in their future lives which our youth should be instructed to pursue and to avoid.

After the usual routine of teaching, namely good reading, writing, arithmetic, some Latin and Greek (and not too much of either, for it is the opinion of able men that too much time is spent in both these,) after teaching the use of the globes and geography, some branches of mathematics, and some other sciences may

well be introduced, as thereby the bents of their minds may perhaps be elicited and discovered.

There appears to me not a doubt that nature has adapted various minds to the various branches of knowledge required in every society. I remember well that very early in youth I was struck with admiration of the great discoveries then lately made by Cavendish, Prestly, Laivoisier, and others in the decomposition of water and the atmosphere. Ever since that, I have felt a zeal for the science of Pneumatic Chemistry ; and I trust I have with some effect exalted that science by the display of the vast share it has had in the creation of our globe, planets, and sun, and by fair and just analogy of the other systems of the universe. I consider it therefore a great improvement that modern education in our schools should include that of the elementary books of the useful sciences of chemistry and geology and astronomy. Bnt there is no doubt that a still more important part of education remains to be infused into the youthful mind, especially at the approach of the time of their leaving school and being launched upon the great theatre of the world, which brings us to the "second great object which education should be brought to support" namely, sound instruction on the objects of their future lives, which our youth should be taught to pursue or

to avoid. I am not aware whether any of the admirable treatises on morality and the conduct of life are furnished to the schools of the present day, but remember it was not the case in my own school time. We had two sermons every Sunday in the church, and one was read in school every Sunday evening; but I should think some of these, containing the most valuable codes of morality, because based upon religion, ought to be furnished to the more advanced scholars, when we consider the dangers that surround the young and depending on their own conduct to avoid in coming on the great theatre of life; we cannot but wish they may be impressed with the strongest cautions that may resolve them to be guided by right and safe principles. There is a variety of theorists on the foundation of moral sentiment and action. One of the most eminent, I believe, Dr. Paley, considers them founded on a desire to act according to the will of God. If that be the true foundation, which it probably is, the next thing would be to find out what is His will in each particular instance. I remember, while serving my apprenticeship to the chemical business in the great city of London, having then arrived at the age of reason, I was one day reflecting on my future prospects, I found that I had to depend on my own exertions for advancement in the way of acquiring a share of the good things that surrounded me. What

abundance, what profusion ! But how to be acquired. At that moment, the idea of justice entered into my mind, I reflected on that idea. I felt it strongly as a part of my nature, and I resolved never to swerve from its dictates. That sense of justice then, which every one arrived at the age of reason probably feels more or less must be according to the will of God who formed man for society. Let the youth then proceed with the guidance of this leading star, and, with prudent industry, he will probably obtain a comfortable and honourable living. This; however, being accomplished, leaves another part of the design of nature yet unobtained. This is the desire of procreation of his species. Young men are frequently led by this part of the design to form early attachments for the other sex, or as it is called, to fall in love, but I can tell my young friends that love is a hazardous concern. The young are too often apt to mix ambition or the desire of fortune with their love. It is not love alone, but social friendship, and a desire for marriage, they should be guided by in the formation of a connection. The desire of procreation then, and the comforts of marriage being founded in his nature, there cannot be a doubt that, when this connection is formed by a judicious choice it must lead to happiness. And although he may fail for a long time in effecting such a union let him still preserve good hopes. This will at

all events preserve him from vicious courses, and reflecting that the desire of marriage is founded in his nature, let him be convinced that it is the will of God that he should pursue it. And having thus endeavoured to point out what are the objects which youth should be instructed by our educational system to pursue in their future lives, namely, to be guided in their pursuit of wealth and honours by the law of justice, and in the other great desire and purpose of their natures, by honourable marriage, it will be easy to see, what by our educational system they ought to be instructed to "avoid" namely, whatever is contrary to the above mentioned honorable principles and pursuits.

I shall, before concluding these ideas on general education, make a few observations on the recent establishment of normal schools in Toronto, and the system of education now carried on under the superintendence of the Rev. Mr. Ryerson. I remember many years since to have had some thoughts of taking up the profession of schoolmaster. But after making some inquiry and observations respecting that profession I came to the conclusion that there must be something very defective in it, for it appeared to me there were more, at least as many persons in it given to intoxication as in any other. I was therefore glad to find that government had taken steps to render this

highly useful profession more respectable, and to place its followers in a more comfortable and independent situation. I believe by the direction of the government, a respectable gentleman of acknowledged talents, and who, I believe had devoted much time previously to that profession, undertook a long and no doubt hazardous voyage over a great part of Europe, to gain information on the subject. On his return to Canada he develops his system founded on the information he had acquired. The government for the time adopts, fosters and proceeds to establish it, when all of a sudden to my great surprise and alarm, we were told that it is a despotic Prussian system, which in a few years was to enslave the country. Unluckily, however, for these alarmists, we have found a short time since, that the Prussian Government, if it had been their design to forge fetters for Prussia and its youth by means of their educational system, have reckoned without their host, for it would appear, that this very diffusion of educational instruction there, has been one great cause of the revolutionary excitement which has broken out. So far then from discountenancing this system for fear it should produce despotism, it ought rather to be dismissed on account of its tendency to produce revolution; but perhaps some of its opponents if they think this would be its tendency, would not be so violent in their opposition to it.

Now the opposition to the new educational system appears to me not so much to arise from a disapprobation of the system itself, as it does from an opposition to the introducing of it by the Rev. Egerton Ryerson. In a pamphlet published by him, he undertook to prove that Lord Metcalfe was in the right in his difference with the ministry, now in office. Now when a man commits himself so as to interfere between two great political parties, I should suppose he believes the opinions he publishes to be founded in truth, and therefore he had an undoubted right to, and indeed it was his duty to publish them. Well, the existing government conceiving possibly the pamphlet to have exhibited considerable talents, employs him in the improvement of the educational system of the Province. In this he appears to have made considerable progress, and is it just or reasonable that he is to be displaced on the accession of a new Government? Is it politic that the public should be deprived of the services of a man of talent and zealous activity in a most important situation for the public good, for a party difference that took place years ago?

Moreover, the office of Superintendent of Education is not a political one, and it appears by a late despatch from Lord Grey to the Governor of New Brunswick that the responsible government ceded to the Province does not embrace the removal of the holders of offices

not political. In my work on the present condition of United Canada, published a few years since in Montreal, I showed in an analysis of Lord John Russel's dispatch, of Nov. 1839, to the then Governor General that that dispatch contained the true principles of Responsible Government; as far as it could be applied to a colony, and that the limits by which this responsibility must be bounded, must be at the *discretion* of the Governor General, and I now observe in the above-stated dispatch of Lord Grey's, that the very same term is employed by him to denote *those limits*. It could not indeed be otherwise, than that some limits should be fixed.

For instance, supposing that Mr. Papineau should acquire a majority in the House of Assembly, and venture successfully to induce the ministry to overturn the constitution of the Province, by making the Legislative Council elective, &c. &c.—is it to be supposed that a Governor would sanction such proceedings because a majority in the House of Assembly agreed to it? A Governor General is sent out to a colony to administer its laws and to preserve that colony to Great Britain, and to maintain its constitution as by law established. Should, therefore, such a contingency as the above take place, all that a Governor would do, would be to dismiss his ministers, dissolve the House of Assembly, and probably proclaim

to their constituents, that they must elect representatives who are willing to abide by the constitution of the Province. The principle of Responsible Government must therefore, evidently, in a colony, be limited by the discretion of its Governor.

The Reformers of the Province may well be proud and happy in having thus got a responsible government, but they should remember it may be brought into disrepute, if it be made an instrument of harshness, severity and oppression, which it may easily be. I verily believe the great body of the Canadian public is tired of the ancient feuds of tory, reformer, and radical, which have so long deformed the political state of the Province. The more enlightened part of the public are now feeling that instead of these jarrings for place and preferment, all these parties should turn more of their exertions to the advancement of the public welfare, in its agriculture, its trade and commerce, and improvements, and I believe it may be depended upon, that these views of the more enlightened parts of the constituencies will shortly prevail among all.

Having now presented my humble conceptions on education in general, we arrive at that part of it relating to the instruction of our agricultural youth in the modern improvements which science has introduced into agriculture. I trust to have shown, when treating on the

agriculture of Western Canada in the foregoing pages, that, in the expected event of the abrogation of the British Corn Laws "there will be but a very small chance for a market in Great Britain, any way remunerating to wheat growers." In this case it will be of high importance to our agriculturists to adopt the improvements of the modern system of agriculture now generally practised in the old country; for if by that system the soil can be made to produce a greater number of bushels to the acre, and of a better quality, which I believe it can, the extra yield will be a clear gain to the farmer, less the cost of the improvement. It appears that the soil in a few years falls off from its customary yield, if a judicious mode of restoring its waste, or as it is called, "keeping it in good heart" is not pursued. Some years ago, I believe the general yield of the land in Upper Canada was averaged at twenty to thirty bushels of wheat per acre, and I have heard of 50 bushels on some farms, but as I have been informed by some intelligent farmers, the average is by no means so great now. Some years are said not to have averaged more than 12 to 15 bushels per acre. In several of the Eastern States of America the lands have been so exhausted that wheat growing is almost laid aside, (see Judge Buel's work on American agriculture.) And there is not a doubt that in the course of time our old cleared land in

Canada, unless a proper restorative agriculture is adopted, will be exhausted in the same manner.

The introduction of agricultural societies over most parts of Canada, will no doubt have the good effect of introducing a zeal and emulation among our agriculturists for agriculture and the improvements in it. I have in the foregoing pages stated my ideas how they may effect an increase in the produce of wheat, by offering such premium for the greatest number of bushels produced on an acre, as will make it worth the while of the farmer to take the additional trouble that may be required to gain the prize. But I am much inclined to believe that the most efficacious way of introducing the modern system of agriculture generally through Western Canada, will be found in the establishment of agricultural school farms through the Province.

I have stated my plan, commencing at page (14) of this work, for introducing the modern system into and through Eastern Canada, and as the same plan will probably answer for the Western part, I beg leave to refer the reader to it. Although many of the agriculturists in this part of the United Province are well acquainted with the modern system, there must be many who are not, as some who farm here have not farmed in the old country, and many of the poorer farmers in the various townships

might consider it advantageous to hire out their farms to government at a fair rent for the above purpose. The number of these experimental farms which it may be proper to begin with, must of course be determined on by the commissioners appointed by government. But if by the plan I have proposed, they can be made to pay their own cost of working, they can, after the first leases are expired, be given up to the owner, who is to agree to adopt the modern system if he find it the most productive,—and other farms can be hired on the same terms and conditions in other townships; so that, providing these farms can be made to pay their cost of working, or nearly so, the improved and more productive system may be introduced into most of the townships with very little cost.

If then these agricultural school farms can be fairly established, I have not a doubt they will prove to be the most palpable and efficacious mode of diffusing the modern system of agricultural science, and as there are many gentlemen in Western Canada of great zeal for that science, should they approve of the plan proposed, as it may be made greatly to further the views of the agricultural societies now established, I should conceive these gentlemen would willingly consent to act as commissioners to superintend the establishment of the farms, and the good conduct and scientific

management of the agriculturist appointed to carry them on.

But another most important advantage that would arise to the province by the establishment of these school-farms will be, the opportunities the youth of the country engaged in agriculture will have to acquire a knowledge of the improved system. It, is I believe, too often the case that our agricultural youth seek rather for employment in the towns and villages than in the avocations their parents have followed. It is probably thought by some that town employment is of a higher grade than that of a farmer; others may conceive there is more chance of fortune-making by it. In both of these notions I conceive they are mistaken. There is no employment in the way of business more honourable than that of an intelligent and able farmer; and as to wealth, there are, I believe, very few in trade who can consider themselves more independent than the owner of a well cleared and cultivated and paid-for farm. But if anything be required to raise the employment of farming in the scale of elevation in society it is no doubt the infusion of some portion of scientific acquirement into one of the most useful of the arts, that is, agriculture. It has now indeed, become entitled to be called a science, and has been thoroughly investigated by some of the most exalted in rank in scientific knowledge, Earl

Dalrymple, Sinclair, Sir H. Davy, Justus Liebig, and others.

In order, therefore, to afford a knowledge of this science to our agricultural youth, the agriculturist should be directed to allow the entrance into the school-farms of as many youth of the country whose parents wish them to be instructed in the school of modern agriculture. This may be done, either on paying a small yearly stipend, or otherwise, without any charge. The scholars to be instructed in the modern mode of farming; and in order to acquire a more impressive knowledge of it, they might assist occasionally in the working of the farms.

Some of the most approved works on the practical and theoretic parts of the modern system of agricultural chemistry, ought to be furnished for the farm, and lectures given whenever an opportunity offers itself, from any gentleman sufficiently acquainted with the science, to give one. By these means a love and zeal for this most important of the sciences would probably be diffused through the youth of the country; many of them would probably soon acquire a knowledge of the art of analyzing soils, by which they would be able to discover their relative values, and they would also be enabled to learn what species of manure, artificial or natural, is required to produce a good crop of the ceralia or other vegetables.

Thus I trust to have shown in the foregoing pages, that there will be a great necessity for an important movement to advance the agriculture of Canada, with a view to increase the powers of production in its soil, to meet the probable change that is to take place in the Corn Laws of the Parent State. I believe that the judicious establishment of experimental school-farms properly superintended by patriotic and scientific gentlemen of the province, who feel that zeal for so doing that ought to animate them. I believe that these farms would be found a powerful means of diffusing the knowledge and practice of the modern more productive system of agriculture through the country, and an equally powerful means of instructing rising youth in that system, giving them a taste for the occupation they are brought up to, by raising that occupation in the scale of society; for when the mind has once acquired a taste for scientific pursuits and discovery, it feels a delight therein, that is likely to preserve it from intemperate courses of amusement. Thus may these establishments tend greatly to advance the happiness and prosperity of the rising generation.

The next article in the Prospectus is the Trade and Commerce of the Province.

It appears that there is really an intention in the British Government to rescind the restrictions of the Navigation Laws; not indeed to

the extent that many people believe ; for one of the chief conditions of these laws is, that three-fourths of the seamen shall be British, which is still to be enforced ; but except the coasting trade and the fisheries, all other branches of trade are to be free for the competition of foreign nations. Now, it is well known that Denmark, Norway and Sweden, and probably Prussia and Russia, can build and sail vessels cheaper than Great Britain. Will not British trade be in that case chiefly carried on in those foreign vessels, and if so, what advantage will be the above said regulation, that British ships are to be manned by British seamen ? And if the commercial marine of Great Britain fails, whence is to come the nurseries of seamen for our navy ?

In the present anarchical state of the nations of Europe, it does appear to me strange, that the Ministers of Great Britain should run the risk of such a change, which perhaps, may be repented of when too late. I cannot conceive they have so ventured, unless they are prepared to make such changes and regulations respecting British shipping, as to enable it to be built and manned, and sailed as cheap as those of other nations.

With respect to the effect of the removal of these restrictions on United Canada, they may indeed produce the taking off by the American Government, of the present duty

they lay on our wheat, when shipped to the States, but I am not of opinion they will take it off, if shipped ground into flour. The great influence of the Western States will probably resist that, and as I have stated in the foregoing pages, if shipped in wheat, the destruction of our mills and all the branches of trade connected with them will ensue. If our wheat is to find no market in Great Britain, and our agriculturists should thereby be led to ship it to the States, an evil no less than the probable separation of this Province from the Parent State may ensue. The cause, as I have before said, why the merchants of the United States can give a higher price for wheat than the merchants of Canada is, that freights from the States to Great Britain are lower than from Quebec or Montreal. Now as Canada can build, man, and sail ships as cheap as the United States can, to remove the navigation laws as respects Canada, will be an evident preference given to American vessels, and therefore a downright discouragement to the building and sailing of Canadian built ships, which would be contrary to sound and wise policy, and I am convinced will not long receive the sanction of public opinion.

If, therefore, by building Canadian vessels, we can send our wheat and flour home as cheap as in American vessels, we shall have no occasion to employ them, nor to send that wheat

and flour to the States, and we shall thereby avoid the danger above stated, and not deprive our mills and trades connected with them of employment. That part of our surplus wheat and flour which is not wanted for the supply of our Islands and ports in the West Indies, can be then shipped to the mother country, in equal terms at least with a foreign nation, and this would greatly increase the trade, commerce and navigation of the Province.

It appears that a vessel called the *Commerce* has lately arrived at Buffalo from Montreal, in four days; the captain of which declared that his vessel could carry 3000 barrels flour through the St. Lawrence Canals. If then our statement above is correct, that competent vessels can be built in Canada as cheap as in the States, the profits made by the American purchaser of our wheat or flour when shipped to that country, might be gained by this Province, and this I trust is another proof of our aforesaid proposition, "that United Canada, with the exertion of due wisdom and energy, is competent, in its present relation to Great Britain, to stand and to thrive on its own resources, without the necessity of seeking the aid of the United States." When the projected railroads from the Bay of Fundy to Quebec, and from Portland to Montreal, are completed, British Goods will probably be brought up as early in the Spring to Western

Canada, as they could from these States, and all that will then be wanted to advance the trade and commerce of the Province, will probably be the construction of branch rail or plank roads through the interior of it.

But there is one thing which requires improvement for facilitating the trade of the Province, that is the circulating medium.

Having been led by business to travel through many of the townships of the United province, I have found much difficulty in transacting it from the great scarcity of circulating medium. This is indeed often the case with individual traders in the old country; and the profound author of the *Wealth of Nations*, ascribes it chiefly to *overtrading*. The regular dealer, he says, if I recollect right, "the man who keeps his trading within his capital, never is in want of money," and that no doubt is the case with overtraders in this Province; but the generality of traders here do not overtrade; yet, in Canada the scarcity of money is almost always a general complaint, and the cause of this I conceive to be, that the great mass of the trade of the country is performed by barter. The Dry Good Merchant, generally, and often the Grocer, and other trades, take wheat and produce in exchange for their goods, and consequently can transact the greater part of their trade with very little money. Now one great source of the perfec-

tion of trade and commerce is, the *division of labour*. Our Dry Good Merchant, the Grocer and other traders, have not only to understate and manage their own branches of trade, but they have also, by this barter, to deal in articles which they are often not well acquainted with; and this perhaps is one cause why our wheat and flour have been so often shipped home in an improper state, and is so often landed in a damaged or sour state. "Canadian sour" is almost always quoted in the prices current. Now if a proper division of labour took place in this branch of trade, if the purchase and shipments of wheat and flour were carried on by a set of merchants who were confined to this branch, they would probably acquire a thorough knowledge of the nature of those articles of produce, and would find means to have them shipped in such a state as to prevent their damaging or souring. The wheat and flour &c., would be paid for in cash by these produce shipping merchants, and the dry good dealer, the grocer, &c., would have nothing to do but to attend to his own branch of business, and receive cash payment from the farmer or country dealer for his goods. Now the much greater quantity of circulating medium which would by the above plan, be required in the transaction of the business of the country, would tend also greatly to increase the *banking business*, and it

would therefore be the interest of the banks to foster and encourage this division of labour in the trade of the Province.

In mentioning the article of "Health," in the Prospectus, my intention was to propose a plan for the prevention of the spread of the dreadful diseases which have of late years been introduced into it by the emigration here of great numbers of people from the old country; and as the cholera has this year appeared there, the health of the Province is in danger.

Thanks to Providence, the greatly important article of the general health of Canada needs but the common attention of its people to the changes of its climate for its preservation, and I have not a doubt that by due attention many of the fevers which sometimes occur in various parts of it might be greatly lessened. During the heats of summer the tone of the skin becomes relaxed. Towards, and in the fall, the mornings and evenings become cold, often damp, and consequently chilly, and before the skin has time to recover its tone, disease ensues. Yet it appears to me that by far the greater number of the people take no precaution against the changes in the weather, at least not early enough to prevent disease. The human skin is one of the most important organs of the body, as respects health. It is I believe, reckoned by eminent writers, on diet and regimen, that a very great proportion

of our diseases arise from a defect in what is called its insensible perspiration. Common colds unattended to, says Doctor Buchan, "kill more than the sword." The vitality of the skin says another, is greater than that of the whole body. Now I have for many years imbibed an idea, and have stated it to several medical men, that if a scale of the changes in the weather, and of the particular diseases occasioned by them were formed; a great light might be thrown upon the causes, and of course on the prevention of disease. It is well known that these changes have a relation to the actual state of the body. In the winter, after the skin and body had time to recover the tone they had lost in the heats of summer, I have known changes of 40 degrees to come in one night at Quebec, and no remarkable disease to occur; but had such a change occurred in the spring or summer, it would probably occasion a great mortality. I therefore believe that the science of prevention of disease, that is, of preserving health, will not arrive at its perfection until a scale is formed, something in the form of what is called, the Atomic Medical Scale: by which is shown at one view the quantity of each element contained in the various kinds of medicine; for instance, let the first column of the scale show the day of the month and year, the second column, the degrees of the thermometer, at

morning, noon and evening, the third, the barometrical scale ; the fourth column, the winds and weather ; the fifth, the prevalent diseases ; the sixth, explanatory remarks of the medical practitioner. Let this sanatory scale be made public weekly, by a Board of Health, which in my opinion ought to be formed in these times in every principal town in Canada. By the above scale the public would learn the actual relation which certain diseases have to the changes in the weather and atmosphere, and be enabled to guard against them. And I cannot but believe that medical men would ensure a great benefit to the public, by the weekly publication of such a diary of the weather, and diseases consequent on its changes ; and they would well deserve remuneration for such service.

Now to return to our article in the Prospectus, the preservation of the Health of the Province from the contagious diseases lately introduced by emigration. It appears that within this few years back, that delightful and hitherto healthy article of the nourishment of man, the potato, he has, from some unknown cause been nearly deprived of. I have, in the foregoing pages, stated what I believe would be a preventative of this potato disease and need not here repeat it. The late diseases, may, I think, be in a great part as-

cribed to this disease of the potato. Famine almost to starvation, in many instances, and probably deficient nourishment in many more, added to consequent poverty and insufficient clothing, produced fevers and other diseases; and most probably these were increased by the consumption of potatoes not free from the disease. In this situation did thousands cross the Atlantic and arrive in this country; the loss of life to several of the respectable characters of the province, was the consequence, men whose humanity led them to expose themselves for the cure of these unfortunate people. Now it is true that the Legislature of the Province has dispatched strong remonstrances on this subject to the Home Government, which will no doubt have due effect, as far as good regulations can serve. But there is a duty which the Legislature owes to itself and the public superior to this representation. We are interested in encouraging a proper emigration, and we wish to treat the diseased among them with due humanity and relief, but humanity itself is to be guided by reason, and the preservation of the public from such an infliction as they have endured, is a paramount duty of the Legislature.

The potato disease has again occurred, and will probably produce nearly the same effects as in late years. The dreadful cholera is also in England and Scotland, and the British

Government is now strongly urged by the public press to promote emigration, and the relief from emigration to the colonies is becoming popular in England. It is probable therefore, that the Government will be constrained to help emigration. To what colony is indeed uncertain. The south seas is powerfully recommended. To me it appears that as the Oregon question is now settled, and as it is probable that great sources of trade and commerce to the east, may arise in a few years, it would be the interest of Great Britain to people that country, and thus preserve or create perhaps a lucrative commerce with the settlements in China and the East Indies. At least, it appears the Americans, whose sagacity in trade affairs is almost proverbial, are already talking on this subject, and expect great things from it.

But as it is however probable that Canada will have a share in future emigration, it is highly proper and an incumbent duty on its Legislature and people, that all evil consequences thereof, shall be as much as may be, prevented. In a lecture given by his honour the present Judge Sullivan, he proposed to form a settlement for his countrymen from Ireland, in some part of Canada, which, if I understood him rightly, lays somewhere between the head of Lake Superior and the Rocky Mountains, for Canada be it remembered, extends over a

part of these mountains to the Pacific. Now allowing the country to be as Mr. Sullivan stated, well adapted for settlement, there are still two great objections to it; first, that the emigrants must pass through all Canada, and thereby chance to communicate disease; and secondly, the distance is so immense that probably no markets for their produce could remunerate them.

Now there is a tract of country in Eastern Canada which is not liable to these objections.

The country up the great River Saguenay, is said to be salubrious and well adapted for settlement. It is very probable that government have lands in that direction; but whether or not, they might probably be purchased on very easy terms. If practicable, I conceive it is due to the safety of the Province from disease that the emigrants should be located there, and that proper and sufficient hospitals should be established there for those who are sickly. This regulation should, I conceive, be in force until some more favourable change takes place in the times as regards health.

It appears a vessel has just arrived at New York, from Ireland, in which a great number are said to have perished by the Asiatic Cholera, and it seems to be the opinion of eminent medical men, that it will find its way through Canada. It seems to me therefore, in particular, that some effective means should



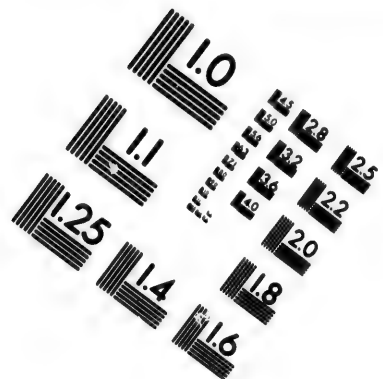
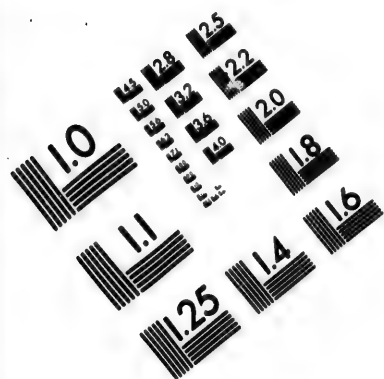
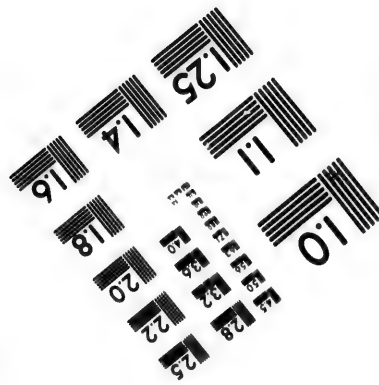
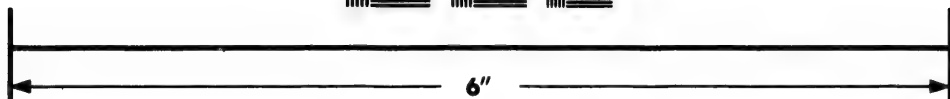
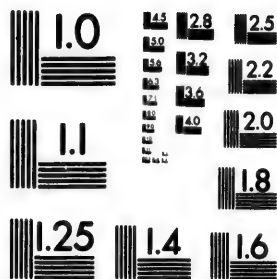


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be adopted to prevent that fatal disease from spreading through the country, and do not believe there is any other more likely to be effective than the one I have suggested above.

The next part of our Prospectus is the greatly important subject of the present state of the Protestant religion, with a view to harmonize its sects, and perhaps ultimately to bring them into one powerful united body.

My mother was a Presbyterian of the original church of Scotland, and I of course went to that church, while in my native city, old Quebec, until I went to school in England at nine years of age. All the school was regularly taken to the Church of England, and I among the rest. And when put apprentice to the chemical line in London, by my worthy guardian, who had been a Commissary in Gen. Wolfe's army, it so happened that my master had a seat also in the Church of England, and sent me there regularly. I have since generally followed that church, because about the time of my coming to the age of reason, I considered that the form of its service, if well imbibed, is calculated to inspire the heart and the mind with all that a sound and reasonable religion can require. I feel, however, a great regard for the persuasion followed by my mother. I have often attended that church, have heard many pious prayers in it, as well as in the Chapels of the Methodists, and other sects; but the quality

of these all depends on the quality of the preachers, while the service of the Church of England does not. It stands on its own firm foundation, containing all that I believe the creature can reasonably ask or religiously feel towards his Creator.

I have thus for many years been nurtured in the Protestant religion, which I consider as founded on the justest feelings of the heart towards God, and the soothing hopes of a blessed future state, by the mediation of the Redeemer. And here I wish to observe, that I believe this Christian religion is designed to bring and to keep mankind in the happiest degree of advancement which human society is probably capable of attaining; and this day being Trinity Sunday, I beg leave to offer an anecdote relating to the Trinity, as the great foundation-stone of this religion. Forty years ago, I was attending a meeting in Exeter Hall, in London, presided over by Lord Bexley. It was a meeting of some religious society, and a discussion came on respecting the choice of one of the officers who was said to be a Unitarian. Among the various speakers pro and con, a gentleman who stated himself to be an officer in the Royal Navy, and a Roman Catholic, made an observation at the close of his speech, which I considered to be a very strong and sound one. "If," said he, "it be the wish of this society

to preserve the Christian Religion, let them hold fast by the Trinity."

Now I never have thought that it would fall to my lot to write upon the subject of religion, and probably never should, but within these few years the most unprecedented and to me unexpected and strange surmises have arisen on the subject of Protestantism, principally as connected with the Church of England.—The first singular occurrence of this sort that came to my knowledge, was on the perusal some eight or ten years since, of a letter or address said to be written by the late Daniel O'Connell to the people of England. It gave a statement of the great number of Roman Catholic churches and chapels that had been and were then building in England, and concluded with an account of a number of converts to that religion, and a warning piece of advice to the people of England, that they had better do the same. This was as far as I could comprehend the meaning of what appeared to me a most absurd address.

A few years after that, however, to my still greater surprise, a great movement appeared to have arisen in the Church of England itself. The discipline of that Church had, it seems become in the course of years, much relaxed, and those whom it considered as its enemies were gaining ground, and probably pressing hard upon it. Some changes in the usual

form took place in some of the Churches, or rather a recurrence to certain forms which had not been practised for many years, and also certain sermons preached by Dr. Pusey, and others, gave considerable alarm to many of the congregations, who conceived that these transactions showed a leaning towards the Church of Rome. I must say, that I myself had very uneasy feelings at these occurrences at that that time. Like all other Protestants who have from their youth heard and read so much of the persecutions of that church, I felt considerable alarm.

Soon after this I fell in with a work published in Montreal on Puseyism by a minister of the church of Geneva, and who was of course an enemy to Puseyism. From this work I found, that so far from the design of Puseyism being to draw or assimilate the Church of England to that of Rome, it designed to carry the Church of England 300 years beyond, namely to the time of the Apostles. Its design was to claim an Apostolic Origin and to restore the Church to a more rigid state of discipline.—Now if this be really the sole design of this movement of the Church I must confess I not only think there can be no ground of alarm in it, but that it is one which the present state of a great part of the world, and which the great tendency to looseness of morals and religious feeling and infidelity among many, loudly calls

for. I was, therefore, much relieved to meet shortly afterwards an address from the Bishop of London to his Diocese, wherein he disclaims and disapproves of any such assimilation to the Church of Rome. I had also the satisfaction to hear the venerable Bishop of Toronto deliver his address to the Clergy of his Diocese containing the same sentiments.

I am also happy to hear from a Rev. Clergyman, that the present Archbishop of Canterbury is of the same sentiments. I must say that as a Protestant, I could not nor would not attend Divine Service in any Protestant Church if I believed its Clergyman was at heart disposed to Romanism. I consider the Protestant Religion as the religion of the heart. I believe that it is on the foundation of this feeling that the people of England are attached to it, and I cannot but consider it would be highly imprudent in the Church of England to run the risk of losing the affections of its people, by any movement it might consider proper to introduce, and that it ought by a solemn and explicit declaration, discountenance and put down any attempts of its members that might produce this lamentable effect of creating alarm and perhaps alienation in the minds of her people.

The Church of Rome is certainly one of the oldest Christian Establishments, but certain causes have produced a separation of many of

her members from her ; and there are three of these causes, which unless they can be removed must ever prevent an assimilation between these Protestant Churches, and that Church of Rome. The first is, the free permission of the use of the Bible. The Bible is stated by all Christian Churches to be the Word of God, and of those who believe so, none who are at all advanced above the lowest degree of ignorance of mind, will be long prevented from the perusal and study of it. The Bible has received the most profound admiration from some of the wisest and most learned men of all nations, and in these times when so much lightness of mind, frivolity, and love of novelty prevails among the young and thoughtless, there is, I believe no book more competent to keep their hearts and minds right, than the Bible. To keep the world then from this *bread* of a future life in its present state of intelligence and advancement, would be almost as futile, as to endeavour to keep it from the bread of the present life.

Another cause of prevention of assimilation of Protestants to the Church of Rome is the bowing down to images. This being directly contrary to the Second Commandment ; Protestants can never agree to it. It is true, that the Roman Clergy assert, that the images are only intended to give the people a more tangible idea of the divinity, and so to carry up their

minds towards Him with more effect ; but, notwithstanding this explanation of their clergy, I believe, from what I have observed myself, that the lower classes have not their minds sufficiently informed and spiritualized, to separate the image from the reality ; and the second commandment herein shows its deep insight into the nature of the human mind.

The third cause of prevention of the assimilation of Protestants to the Church of Rome, is the doctrine of transubstantiation. The 28th article of religion of the Church of England "On the Lord's Supper," is as follows :

"The Supper of the Lord is not only a sign of the love that Christians ought to have among themselves one to another ; but rather is a Sacrament of our redemption by Christ's death ; insomuch that to such as rightly, worthily, and with faith receive the same the Bread which we break is a partaking of the Body of Christ ; and likewise the Cup of Blessing is a partaking of the Blood of Christ."

"Transubstantiation (or the change of the substance of Bread and Wine) in the Supper of the Lord, can not be proved by holy Writ ; but is repugnant to the plain words of Scripture, overthroweth the name of a Sacrament, and hath given occasion to many superstitions."

"The Body of Christ is given, taken, and eaten, in the Supper only after an heavenly and spiritual manner. And the mean whereby the Body of Christ is received and eaten in the Supper is Faith."

"The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper was not by Christ's ordinance reserved, carried about, lifted up, or worshipped."

The idea of the change of the Sacramental Bread and Wine into the actual Body and Blood of the Saviour, is in my opinion totally contrary to human reason, and having made this observation when conversing with a gentleman on the subject, he asked me in reply, whether the idea of the Trinity was not also contrary to reason. I told him I did not consider it so, and I here state my reasons for this belief. There are several instances, even in the present state of our existence, where the heart and mind of one person may be said to acquire a double and even a treble state of identical existence. In the case of a certain degree and stage of the passion of love, the heart and mind of the lover has been changed to such excess as almost to be entirely identified with its object. The poet Thompson describes this stage of the passion well: "She alone seen, heard and felt, flows through the nerves and boils along the brain." Even, indeed, in a more pure and reasonable degree of this passion, the heart becomes almost identified with its object. I remember a story I heard some fifty years ago, when duels were far more common than at present on a love account, a young gentleman became involved in one. The parties went from England to the continent to settle the affair. The young gentleman received a ball through his chest; and so surprised were the Physicians that attended him, that

the ball had not passed through his heart, that Doctor Pitcairn, an eminent London physician, actually passed a sword through a dead subject in the exact direction of the ball, and it ran directly through the heart, upon which the Doctor made this elegant observation to his young patient. "Young gentleman, said he, it was well for you that your heart was with your mistress." In the case again of a marriage for love; may it not be said that this happiest union of nature makes the couple two in one, and this question I have no hesitation to leave to the ladies, (who are by far the best judges in these affairs,) to decide. And having I think proved, that in some, though perhaps too rare instances in human life, two separate beings may almost be said to exist as one, we will continue the case to the supposition of this happily united couple having offspring, a son for instance. Who does not know the feelings of a mother for her child even in general nature? How intensely deep then are they likely to be in the case of a happy and sympathetic union above mentioned; and how likely is it that the male parent might happen to be a man possessed, as the Phrenologist would say, of large organs of Philoprogenitiveness; (but as I, who am no warm believer in Phrenology) would say whose heart is strongly affected with domestic feelings. How easy it is to conceive that such a man would sympathize with his wife's tenderness

for her offspring, and thereby shew the two objects identified with the third. To conclude, there are not wanting instances where the loss of a child has occasioned the death of parents. If then, even in human nature, instances may be found where, by the force of the passions and the affections, three persons may be so intertwined and assimilated as very nearly to form but one. How may we not more justly reason by analogy that such a state may exist in spiritual life! It is true this is highly mysterious; but a Trinity of three Gods in one, is it any ways fuller of mystery to our finite minds than the mystery of one God? When Philosophers of the most extensive and profound knowledge of Nature, in all her stages (from the blade of grass, through all the depths of the earth and ocean man can explore up to the most astonishingly distant objects in the heavens,) when these Philosophers perceive in all these wonders, convincing proofs of unity and wisdom of design, they find they have arrived at a final cause, they find that they can go no farther; but they find also that that this final cause is indeed, "Incomprehensible." The most profound and intelligent human mind can never conceive how a being can create itself, and that from eternity. It has indeed arrived at a final but incomprehensible cause, it has also arrived at the mystery, that compels it to be satisfied, to be silent, and to adore.

There appears to me therefore, nothing contrary to human reason, to conceive that the Deity may exist in Trinity.

But the idea of the transubstantiation of the Body of Christ; that is, that the identical bread and wine which is administered at the present day, is actually part of the Body and Blood of the Redeemer, when he existed on earth, is not only contrary to human reason, but it is contrary to the actual laws of nature formed by the Deity himself. The actual Body of the Saviour as he existed on earth could never have amounted in weight to the bread and wine used in the administration of the sacrament, since his death. I mean to say, that, allowing the bread and wine employed in the sacrament was part of his body at and some time after his death, the weight of the bread and wine that has been employed in the sacrament since, must have greatly exceeded the weight of the Body of the Saviour at the time of his death; therefore the bread that is employed at the present day cannot possibly be part of that body. This is an evident proof to my mind that the sense of the Scriptural account is purely symbolical and spiritual, as it is justly considered by all Protestant Christians. By a law of nature, it is impossible to be otherwise, and it is equally impossible to believe that Deity could intend to convey any meaning

contrary to the inevitable and unchangeable laws he had established.

It is true that the Church of Rome has of late adopted several reforms. Whether any change is to be made in the said doctrine, I am not aware, but of this I feel confident that it is totally impossible that Protestants can give faith to transubstantiation.

But, however repugnant to Protestant religion may be the creed or practice of the Church of Rome, the followers of that Church have an undoubted right to their own feelings and convictions, that induce them to follow the rules and discipline of that church; and nobody prevents nor molests them in so doing. On the other hand Protestants have the same right to follow *their* convictions. Yet notwithstanding this plain rule of right of all to their own convictions, a scene took place very lately in the British House of Commons which well requires notice. A Roman Catholic member, I believe a nobleman, allowed, in a speech he delivered there, that there was an antagonism between the two religions, and that he believed it would never cease until the Protestant religion was destroyed. Whereupon a Protestant member whose name I do not recollect thanked the noble Lord for his candour and contrasted it with the conduct of others who carried on the same hostility to Protestantism, but would not avow that they did so.

He told them also that he was well aware that that hostility did exist on the part of the Church of Rome; and that the Protestant religion was ready prepared to encounter and to overcome it.

We shall now proceed to develop the causes that render necessary this Protestant movement, with a view, as stated in the Prospectus, "to harmonize its sects, and perhaps ultimately to bring them into one powerful united body."

The causes which call upon professors of the Protestant religion, to take immediate steps towards endeavouring to form this union are manifest, and considering what we have above stated to have taken place in a church whose congregations in all parts of the world form a very numerous portion of those professors, such steps have become imperative on every true Protestant. Never did I expect I should live to hear any doubts or surmises on the Protestant character of the church of England, and it must be evident to all other sects of Protestantism, that were these doubts and surmises really founded on fact, and to become thereby realized, the stability of all other sects of Protestants might be seriously affected.

The above stated facts I consider then to form one prominent cause why Protestants of every denomination should wish to draw in closer union the bonds of Protestant principles, and should take steps to form one unit-

ed body, whose powerful voice should propound and maintain those principles intact and on an immoveable basis.

Before specifying the denominations of the Protestant sects I am now addressing, I will state the substance of what I published on this subject, in a little work called "A Tour through the Eastern Townships," published in Montreal a few years since.

Observing that in some of those Townships various sects were in the habit of joining to enable them to build chapels, to be used alternately by each sect, I observed that it might be advisable for the Church of England to offer encouragement to this proceeding, as tending to beget a friendly feeling between those sects, and I remarked that in furtherance of that end if on one day in the year a general meeting of them all, during the fine summer weather, a general form of prayer could be agreed on by the clergy of each sect, which form should have no reference whatever to the *peculiar* doctrines of each sect; and a sermon formed on the same principle, it might have the effect of producing this friendly feeling, and do away with many unfounded prejudices against each other, and I concluded with observing that if such an annual meeting could be agreed on, it would tend greatly to root out infidelity; and that possibly nothing would be more likely to meet the approbation of the Deity than this cordial and

united adoration of all sects. A few years after the publication of the above little work. I had the satisfaction to learn that a great union of different Protestant sects, and, I believe, even some Roman Catholics, had taken place in England, called the *Evangelical Society*, which appears to have had the very same design as I had proposed in the above work published in Montreal; namely, the conciliation of the various sects of Christians. What the state or result of this society is, I am not well informed, but I have been told it has hitherto been partly a failure, and the more the pity. It is however probable that Protestantism will now feel the necessity of a close combination to avow and sustain their religious creed. It is indeed matter of regret, that Protestantism should be wasting and frittering away its strength by the endless subdivisions that have taken place in it, while the Roman Catholic Church has acquired its strength chiefly by an undeviating persistence, and is no doubt deriving much satisfaction from these endless divisions in Protestantism. It is matter of high regret, and indeed of astonishment that the religion of the Saviour of mankind, which he intended as a source of union, of peace, of love, and unity among its followers, should really have on the contrary produced among too many of these Protestant sects a source of bitter acrimony, distrust, and jealousy. Nothing can be a stronger

proof that the true design of the Christian religion has been entirely mistaken, and that we require to retrace our steps to the time of its original organization, by its Divine Author.

We shall therefore now examine into these divisions, shall offer observations upon them, and continue to develop the necessity for the Protestant movement referred to above.

When the Roman Catholic contemplates these divisions in the Protestant sects, he naturally enough considers every one of them as proofs to him of the truth of his own. Now, whether that religion be right or wrong, one truth concerning it at least is, that, since the Reformation no important divisions have taken place in it, and this is probably one great cause of its power and influence; and that church is probably observing the Protestant divisions with no little complacency, and probably views this debilitating cause as one which may hereafter produce an absorption of these mutually inimical sects into her own pale.

Now it does certainly appear to me, that these bickering jealousies and frequent animosities of many Protestant sects, are totally unworthy, and below the elevated character of this enlightened age. I believe that so grating are these sensations to the feelings of the present times, that means will be found at no distant period, finally to put an end to them.

Some of the sects object to having Bishops and Archbishops in the Church, yet Bishops were ordained in the Apostle's times, or nearly so; and what is a Bishop, but a clergyman of degree, and why is it not equally needful to have officers of superior degree to watch over and direct the conduct of the inferior ones of a great church (where they must of necessity be numerous) as it is in every other great department of life. The success of an army in the defence of the country it belongs to, as frequently depends on the qualities and characters of its superior officers, as it does on any other cause, and when to the solemn convictions of Christianity, which ought to form the basis of the clerical character, the prospect of dignified preferment is added, I should conceive that one of the greatest incitements to the acquisition of the powerful talents required to announce the truths of religion, is formed.

Again, the actual difference in the various doctrines of the Protestant sects does not appear to be of any high importance. I have occasionally attended most of their meetings and could not discover any such difference in their public worship. Some sects may believe that faith, and others that good works are the more important to salvation.

But all the sects believe in Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, the three cardinal points of the Christian Religion, and all the sects inculcate

the practice of the moral and social religious virtues. Where then is the great difference? To those sects who profess to believe in the Trinity, I would say, that all these differences or sources of disagreement, are as dust in the balance when compared with the high moral and social, and religious advantages that would accrue to every sect could a holy and cordial union of all be accomplished. I have heard in many of the various meetings the preacher complain of the infidelity of the age and I do not know any mode more likely to strike the infidel with awe, than this solid and powerful union.

One prominent and probably the greatest cause of the dissatisfaction, and complaining of some sects, is that the Church of England is called the established national religion. This is indeed a most important consideration. Very many are of opinion that there should be no established religion. For myself I must say, I hope never to see the day when that happens. So far am I from believing that the State should not sanction and uphold religion, that I think it the greatest honour and the greatest policy that it does do so, and that it would be the greatest disgrace if it did not, and scripture bears me out here. "Sin," says the Scripture is a disgrace to any nation and how can the government of a nation be justified before the Almighty Throne, if it does not endeavour to prevent it? and where is there a

more potent means of preventing it, than in sanctioning, promoting and supporting just religious principle and practice. Human laws are indeed enacted by the state, to punish the corruptions of the heart, and its disregard of the dictates of morality; the Divine law, well infused into the heart, strikes deeper; it prevents that corruption, and the causes arising from it.

The Sovereign of Great Britain is bound by law to profess the Protestant religion. But has not that Sovereign, his nobles and the high personages of the land, an equal right to choose their Protestant church as well as any of his subjects. This question I conceive will be answered by all the sects in the affirmative, as just and reasonable.

So far therefore am I from thinking that there should be no established church, that it will be seen by the propositions I shall shortly make, with due humility to all sects of Protestants, that I believe that the present state of that religion and of the world requires that all the sects when amounting to a certain number of adherents should be nationalized.

The Church of England has hitherto been considered as the national church; but should the union I shall have the honour to propose be finally adopted, she will find her grandeur greatly augmented thereby and her peace and security more firmly established. I should

therefore humbly conceive she would not only oppose no unreasonable obstacle, but gladly promote its accomplishment.

Whether the initiative of this great work could come from herself, I am not competent to say. A great preparatory step has been made by the above named evangelical society, among whom were, no doubt many of the Clergy of the Church of England, and I much hope that society will not abandon their object, but persevere zealously in efforts which would tend, when obtained, to the glory of Protestantism. And so convinced am I, that this great object of the union of Protestants is at this time wanted to give that strength to Protestantism which it so much requires, that I now humbly propose to all sects of Protestants and to their ministers, that a general convocation should be promoted and called, in furtherance of this great object. To these members I would say, that after years of deliberation on this subject; after having during that period, deeply regretted the differences existing among the various sects; after witnessing the events stated above which have transpired during these years I have felt persuaded that the present state of Protestantism requires on the part of its professors a solemn, energetic and united attempt to effect such a union as shall put an end to these jarring divisions in Protestant society, and shall place the Protestant religion on that high,

firm, and immoveable ground which its sound and reasonable basis deserves.

It is on these grounds I now humbly venture to offer for the consideration of the ministers of the various congregations the plan proposed. The motives that have led me so to do, I have no doubt the ministers of these congregations will duly appreciate, but their united wisdom must decide on the advantages that would arise from this plan, and of the best mode of proceeding to its accomplishment. Many indeed may be the difficulties foreseen and to be encountered, but what great and good end is accomplished without them? The advance of the world, in these days, in almost every department of life; the high progress in science; requires that religion should also be advanced to keep pace with them, and I know of no way so effectually to do this as for all Protestantism to unite, and to ascend together to the great, organic and original construction of that religion by its divine founder. Sublimely simple as it is, it seems impossible it should not be completely competent to produce the effect it was designed for the perfect union of all sects of all its professors.

Extracts from the Rev. Charles Buck's Theology.

Article EPISCOPACY.—Archbishop Usher projected a plan for the reduction of Episcopacy, by which he would have brought it very near the Presbyterian Government of the Scotch church. The weekly

parochial vestry answering to their church session, the monthly synod to be held by the Chorepiscopi answering to their Presbyterians, the diocesan synod to their provincial, and the national to their general assembly. The meeting of the Dean and Chapter practised in the Church of England, is but a faint shadow of the second, the Ecelesiastical court of the third, and the convocation of the fourth.

Article METHODISTS, PROTESTANTS.—This denomination was formed in the year 1729, by one Mr. Morgan, and John Wesley. In the month of Nov., that year, the latter being a Fellow of Lincoln College, they went to spend some evenings in reading the New Testament with Mr. Charles Wesley, Student, &c. &c.

At the time this society was formed, it was said that the whole Kingdom of England was tending fast to infidelity, and there is every reason to believe the Methodists were the instruments of stemming this torrent.

The doctrines of the Wesleyan Methodists according to their own account are the same as the Church of England, as set forth in her Liturgy, Articles and Homilies.

Respecting original sin, free will, the justification of men by good works, and works done before justification, Mr. Wesley refers us to what is said on the subject, in the former part of the ninth, tenth, eleventh, twelfth and thirteenth articles of the Church of England.

Considerable numbers of the Calvinist and Armenian Methodists approve of the discipline of the church of England, while many it is said are dissenters on principle. Mr. Wesley, and Mr. Whitfield were both brought up in, and paid peculiar respect to that church.

Article PRESBYTERIANS.—The Presbyterians believe that the authority of their ministers to preach the gospel, to administer the sacraments Baptism and the Lords Supper, and to feed the flock of Christ, is derived from the Holy Ghost by the imposition of the hands of the Presbytery, and they oppose the independent scheme of the common rights of Christians by the same arguments which are used for that purpose by the Episcopalians. They affirm however that there is no order in the churches established by Christ and his apostles as superior to that of Presbyterians, that all ministers being ambassadors of Christ are equal in their commission; that Presbyter and Bishop though different orders, are of the same import, and that prelacy was gradually established upon the primitive practice of making the Moderator or Speaker of the Presbytery a permanent office.

These positions they maintain against the Episcopalians, by the following Scriptural arguments. They observe that the apostles planted churches by ordaining Bishops and Deacons in every city, &c.

Again Timothy, whom the Episcopalians allege to have been the first Bishop of Ephesus, was present when the settlement was made, Acts xx. 5, and it is surely not to be supposed that had he been their Bishop, the apostle would have devolved the whole Episcopal power upon the presbyters before his face.

N. B.—To this it is replied, "But if Timothy was not Bishop of Ephesus, what, it may be asked, was his office in that city? for that he resided there for some time, and was by the apostle invested with authority to ordain and rebuke presbyters, are facts about which all parties are agreed, and which indeed

cannot be controverted by any reader of Paul's Epistles.

By the above extracts it would appear then that the Methodists, having originally sprung from the Church of England, do actually now approve and adhere to the main doctrines of the Church of England, for their founders refer them to the articles, and her homilies. That the Presbyterians also embrace and maintain nearly the same doctrines, but differ as to the mode of Church government.

The Independents or Congregationalists, by a Confession of Faith drawn up in London in 1658, by the principal members of their community in England, entitled "a declaration of the Faith and order owned and practised by the Congregational churches in England, agreed upon and consented to by their Elders and Messengers on their meeting at the Savoy, October 12th, 1658, as well as from other writings of the Independents, that they differ from the rest of the reformed in no single point of any consequence, except that of ecclesiastical government, and their religious doctrines were almost entirely the same with these adopted by the Church of Geneva. The Baptists will come nearly under the same description, except as to Baptism.

But in the present state of Protestantism arising from the causes I have above stated, in the present state of looseness of religious feel-

ing in a great part of mankind and in the increasing progress of infidelity and free thinking; in the advancement sought for by society in general, in knowledge in the zeal for scientific discovery; in fact, in the grand march of intellect of this age, the above differences among the sects are trifles in my mind, light as gossamer compared with the profoundly solid advantages which a cordial union of Protestants would confer on Protestantism. And let its ministers look to it. The opportunity yet presents itself to form this grand and powerful union; but the enemies of Protestantism and of religion are perhaps, now deeply at work. Romanism against the former, and infidelity against the latter. It is time that the keen and penetrating eye of true religion should open upon them and with its powerful and resolute voice overthrow and confound their designs.

The above sects are divided into numerous divisions.

It is therefore with a view to seek for a unity of all sects of Protestantism in the sacred bonds of Christian peace and love; it is with a view and in consideration of the above stated events in a great and numerous portion of that Protestantism whereby the recent conduct of some of its members have deeply wounded the feelings of many and true Protestants, that we consider all these are powerfully called upon to

make a united, firm and explicit declaration of their unalterable adhesion to the Protestant faith.

But for this great purpose it will be at first proper to bring forward a most important preliminary project, on which all sects of Christians will be found deeply interested :—One Protestant National Church to be founded by mutual consent of all Protestant sects and their Clergy.

We have seen above the vast variety of divisions that have taken place among Protestants. Now what have been the effects of this cause. The frittering away of its strength down almost to a state of powerless debility in some instances. When I enter a place of worship containing a crowded congregation, I feel a higher degree of consideration for the sect it belongs to, than entering one with only a few hearers. The persuasion of every person of a sound mind, is worth something, and the weight and influence of a sect probably advances in something like geometrical progression, as it increases in numbers. What then must be the weight and influence of Protestantism, if it could be happily blended in one socially united body. And this is one of the causes of the power of the Roman Church. But the effects of the vast division of Protestantism has been directly the reverse of what was intended by the Saviour of mankind. *His religion* in every

part of it, breathes nothing but the purest philanthropy. He intended it for a bond of unshaken union among his followers, but unhappily it has too often, as above observed, been changed into a vehicle of bitter acrimony and estrangement.

If the causes I have above stated be allowed to prove the necessity of giving to Protestantism a high band of union by which her strength security and efficiency will be promoted, if instead of being allowed to dwindle away, by ceaseless divisions, to the joy and perhaps derision of her opponents, she is strongly elevated in her name and character by the powerful sanction of National Union and National Law. If the congregations of the various sects of Protestants, see the high advantages of this national union in fixing Protestantism on an immutable basis, their former objections may vanish into "thin air," and this national Protestant union be hailed as a national blessing.

I shall now take into consideration some of the objections hitherto made by many of the sects to the clergy being paid by the government, and their preferment, in consequence, of what is called the voluntary system, of remuneration of their services.

The Church of England being the only church hitherto paid by the state, the ministers of the other Protestant sects of necessity have received their annual stipend from the various con-

gregations, and it is this peculiar circumstance relating to the church of England that has occasioned the long existing outcry of most of the other sects against the union of church and state.

If however the Union of the Protestant Churches into one National Church should be finally adopted, this great objection will lose much of its force. It is evident that whatever stipends have been or will be allowed to the clergy they are not awarded by the government, but by the law of the land. The law of the land originates from the legislature of the nation in which the nation has a powerful voice by means of its representatives in that legislature. It is therefore from the people that these stipends do or will originate. If therefore on contemplation of the weakness and debility ensuing to Protestantism from the unceasing division of sects, if on contemplation of the powerful advantages to its strength and prosperity which I have endeavoured to point out, it be agreed to by these sects that a national union would be highly desirable, if it could be brought about, it will then come to the same thing whether they pay their ministers themselves, or whether they agree to leave that to their representatives in the legislature of the nation. In both cases the payment would be voluntary, from the people's constitutional right over their representatives.

There is also another very important advantage which would ensue to the Protestant sects should it be found possible for them to enter into union with the Church of England. The right of succession from the apostles is denied to them by that church, but if mutual modifications should be agreed on, and a union be founded, they might probably have that right conferred on and allowed them.

It is therefore, in the hopes of removing this and other great sources of discontent prevailing among the Protestant sects, that I now venture to call their ministers duly to take into their consideration the purport of this appeal to them. If they conceive that protestanism is suffering by their present disunion, and ceaseless divisions; and if they conceive as I have stated above; that the present state of the world, the ceaseless advance of the age in knowledge and science, requires that a powerful union of all Protestants should arise to vindicate its cause, assume its full strength, and thus to advance with equal steps; if in fine they conceive with me that the reformation is still incomplete, until the design of its almighty founder is accomplished, "Unity, peace and good will to men." I call on them as ministers of his gospel to devise the means of promoting this glorious end.

I now conclude this address, conscious indeed that it may appear as presumption in a person

in my humble station to propose so important a measure. I confess myself entirely unaware of the difficulties of its accomplishment, but my zeal for what I conceive to be the end of the true religion, as designed by its divine founder has led me to propose the seeking of this great purpose. But, above all, it is in the hope that this attempt may elicit from some of those superior hearts and minds which I have no doubt exist both in the Church of England and in the other Protestant sects, a fair, candid, and deep consideration of the views I have proposed to them, and which I do with due humility, and hope to meet their concurrence, Providence sometimes begins events with what may appear inadequate means; she may suggest ideas to minds thoroughly inadequate by their station in society to carry them through to the accomplishment of her designs; but she also produces other minds endowed with all the required qualities, energies, and knowledge for that accomplishment. And I have now on this subject only to observe, that I firmly believe that to the high and superior minds who may be able to accomplish this great event, of the union of all Protestant sects, will belong and be acquired, a glory equal to that of the great founders of the Protestant Reformation.

The Church of England, although, as I have above observed, she did not make the initiative to this great measure, would certainly have

much to gain and nothing to lose could it be brought to pass. The virulence with which she has for many years been assailed, by opponents, powerful at least by their number, has occasioned her to restore a state of discipline which had been long declining, but in so doing has she not alarmed many of her adherents, giving rise to unfounded but injurious assertions, by which there is reason to believe the good faith and the affections of not a few have been alienated from her ?

But could this great National Union of Protestants with her, and a firm and explicit declaration of Protestant principles be the result, these estranged affections would be restored to her, and she might rise to a degree of glory to which she has not yet attained.

That numerous body of her former children, the sect of Methodists, would, perhaps, return to the bosom of their parent, and the yet more numerous bodies comprised in the other sects instead of the bitter enmity with which they have been endeavouring to produce her fall and overthrow, would then hail her with joy and gratitude, as the restorer of the unity and peace designed by the Saviour.

Is it not then to be hoped that the Church of England would willingly agree to the forming of a convocation of the Protestant Churches in order that it may be tried whether such modifications of the various creeds and forms

of Government could not be effected, so that one great National Protestant faith and government might be established? The advanced and enlightened state of the age, is oppressed, tired, and loathes the present disgraceful, discontented, and bitter animosities that prevail among the Christian sects. The adorer of true religion, of that in which its sacred founder breathed, unity, peace and good will, pants for its restoration among these sects, and as I have stated in a former page, I believe that to those sects who believe in a Trinity, all other differences should be as gossamer when compared to the high and firm advantages which this union would confer on them and on mankind. In fine, I believe, that the unity of the Roman Catholic Church is the great secret of her power and durability, and I believe also that Protestantism will not acquire an equal degree of them, without the formation of this National Protestant Union.

It is then devoutly to be wished, that the divines of all persuasions will calmly contemplate the existing state of the world in all its bearings; some of which I have endeavoured above to point out, and one of which I must here bring again to their notice, showing the wonderfully increased zeal in the pursuit of scientific acquirements and discovery.

This one is the sublime discoveries in Pneumatic Chemistry, which laid bare to man

a world formerly unknown to him. The waters of the ocean, and the air of the atmosphere, which he formerly considered as simple elements, he can now, from the former obtain a great part of the gas required to light his cities, and from the other, oxygen to serve innumerable chemical purposes; and Sir H. Davy was of opinion that the time will come when water will serve as fuel. The discovery of the steam engine has enabled him in a few years, almost to annihilate time and space, and thereby to treble the facility of the combination of minds: no sooner, however, had this great event taken place than the powerful control of man over the electric fluid, rendering it subservient to his purposes, bids fair in time to vie with the power of steam, and possibly, in the end to assume its place as a more safe and rapid conveyance, and I have for many years believed that by its power man will obtain the same command over the atmosphere as he has now over the ocean. While the other sciences are then advancing with uncontrollable energy, is it not apparent that the greatest of all sciences, religion—the relation of man to the author of all the wonders he beholds and feels—should make an equal advance, that it should assume the sublime attributes designed by its founder, and become forever the solace of the multitudes of mankind, and the admiration of the most intelligent and enlightened among them?

It is then, I say, devoutly to be hoped that men of powerful and enlightened minds among the Protestant clergy ; men of a holy zeal for the advancement of religion suitable to the present advanced state of society, should devote their profound attention to this great object. It is certain that whether successful or not, the most powerful minds among them could not be employed in any cause more beneficial to mankind, and consequently more illustrative of the glory of the Creator.

I do therefore most devoutly hope that some of those pious, potent minds that I am convinced are found in numbers among the vast body of the ministers of Protestantism, will consider, consult on, and agree to set on foot measures to form a general convocation of these ministers for the high purpose of forming one united national protestant church. The church of England, I do with deep humility believe, would evince the highest wisdom, by consenting to lead the way in this high attempt for the union of the Protestant Church, of which she may be, on many accounts, called the mother. Ascending then, with all its sects, to the sacred fountain of the original and organic construction of the Christian religion, then promulgated by the Saviour to mankind, let them throw off all former prejudicial ideas on the subject, and imbibing from that sacred fount, the pure reviving stream of that religion, may they be

convinced that the truly effective way of realizing it in the minds of mankind, will be to form a national code of it immediately based on its simple, plain and sublime principles, "Peace on earth and good will to men," thus embracing every Protestant sect in the potent arms of National sanction. Glorious indeed would be the result, if such a code of National Protestant Religion could be unalterably fixed on by its various sects. I have said above, I do not believe the Reformation is complete without it; with it, it would be perfect, and would probably effect the nearest approach to the existence of a millenium upon earth which mankind has yet seen. When however we reflect on the numerous modes of thought to be consulted and brought to an agreement in it, we may have reason to say that the "Power of God the Saviour alone can do this, for as to the power of man alone to do it, it is possible, that notwithstanding, the boasted advance of the age in knowledge, in civilization, and the sciences, society may not yet have arrived at that degree of advancement, which may entitle us to hope that this great design of union can be accomplished. I have found indeed among the society of this Province, some persons most inveterately adverse to any church at all being sustained by the state. These however are probably actuated by their jealousy of what they call a dominant church. If

the great union already mentioned should be formed, a great part of these feelings would be removed. These men would then take a more comprehensive view of the subject; and would consider, that in a free representative country, these representatives being elected by the people, it is not from the state properly so called, that the ministers of the various sects would be remunerated for their services, but by the *Nation itself*. I have above shown the high advantages and strength the Protestant religion would receive by this union of sects. The nation itself becomes the supporter, and the guarantee of this religion when the sects have decided on the wisdom and powerful effects of this measure. But whatever may be the issue of any attempt made to form this national union of the Protestant sects; let none of them at least lay the flattering unction to their souls, that no national religion will continue to be established in Great Britain. There is too much pure, deep and sound religion there, to expect that event to happen. There is on the contrary every reason to believe that the longer time mankind becomes acquainted with the shortness and vanity of this life, they will cherish every support which may give strength and influence to a religion which they hope will lead them to a better.

We now approach the last part of our Pros-

pectus, "The Dissertation on the National Debt of Great Britain, with a plan proposed for its gradual extinction," but as I believe the great interests, not only of United Canada, but of all the other British North American Provinces will be greatly concerned in the successful issue of this plan, we shall therefore by a brief recapitulation of the foregoing part of our work, endeavour to bring the principle features of it, into one view, that the reader may have a more direct insight into what we consider to be the wants of the Province.

It is not, however, solely with a view to the interests of these Colonies that I have contemplated and proposed to make a Dissertation on the National Debt.

This great subject I have deeply considered for many years. It is a subject that having first awakened my astonishment, that a nation like Great Britain, the amount of whose real property, I have ascertained to be estimated at above four thousand million of pounds stg., should yet for so many years have continued to pay the enormous amount of interest, nearly thirty millions a year on a debt of 800. This was the great fact that led me to this dissertation because I have believed it practicable to produce the extinction of this great burden, I have long hoped to be instrumental, thereby to reduce the distresses, promote the prosperity, honour and glory of my country, by humbly

laying my ideas on this great subject before the world, trusting that some of those powerful minds that exist no doubt, in numbers in Great Britain, might acquiesce in this practicability and the high advantages resulting to the nation, if the plan should be accomplished, and therefore that they would employ their energies for that great purpose.

I now commence the concentrated view, as stated above.

We began our work with a plan proposed for the introduction of the modern system of agriculture into Eastern Canada, and any person at all acquainted with that section will agree to its urgent necessity. In my works on the past, present and future condition of the Canadas, published in Montreal some years since, I stated to the merchants of Montreal that they would find themselves greatly interested in promoting this plan. I called their attention to the fact, that importers of British Goods were annually increasing in Upper Canada; that the completion of the canals would probably add to the number, and that therefore as the Upper Canada trade was gradually slipping from their hands, it was their manifest interest to render Eastern Canada a fertile country, by the introduction of a more productive system of agriculture among its inhabitants. Subsequent events have realized my anticipation. Not only de

W. C. Importers continue to increase, but the American government, by their regulations of trade, have drawn many of those importations into their own channel, and are therefore materially affecting the trade of Montreal.

The next part of the work is the Agriculture of Western Canada, and I have therein shewn the necessity that will arise for Western Canadian farmers, in case the British Corn Laws are actually done away with, to seek for compensation for the low prices of wheat that will probably ensue, by a more improved and productive mode of agriculture, and then proceeded to show that the merchants and farmers of Canada have a fair claim on the British Legislature for the supply of our British West India Colonies with bread stuffs and provisions, as we can make it appear to the satisfaction of the planters and merchants of these colonies that British North America and Great Britain are perfectly competent to furnish them with ample supplies ; and I have proposed to the merchants of Canada that they should make application on this important subject to the imperial Legislature, either directly or through the medium of the Canadian Legislature, as some remuneration for the loss of the protective duty on wheat. It is true, that the British West India Colonies have been for some time in a very unprosperous condition ; but from their great importance to the trade of Great

Britain, there cannot be a doubt that means will be adopted to restore their prosperity, and it appears there has already been a loan made to them by the British Legislature, of several hundred thousand pounds sterling. But, if contrary to the very intention of the abolition of West India Slavery, the British Government persists in its encouragement of slave-grown sugar, I have not a doubt that facilities will be afforded to the British West India Colonies, to import free labourers from Africa, in sufficient number to enable them to compete with that slave-grown sugar. Now there is not a country in the world, better suited than Canada for supplying the West Indies with provisions of all kinds. Our canals are now completed so that vessels of sufficient burden can proceed to sea from its most western parts, and I have little doubt, if we can obtain the trade of supply of our West India Colonies, a new and prosperous era of trade, manufactures and commerce and navigation, will be opened to the Province.

The next part of our work relates to General Education of the Canadian Youth, on which I have offered some ideas which may perhaps be considered as original, and which I leave to be duly appreciated by the public.

We then proceeded to show the necessity of instructing our agricultural youth in the modern improvements which science has

lately introduced into agriculture. If ever there was a time when the improvement of agriculture was required in this Province, it is at this moment. In February of this year, 1849, the law granting a protective duty on Colonial wheat imported into Great Britain expires. Unless the British Parliament repeals this law abrogating the Corn Laws, Canadian wheat, imported into Great Britain will be precisely on the same footing as that of foreign nations. The quantity of wheat grown by foreign nations for the supply of the British market, will probably then be so great as to reduce the price greatly.

It will therefore be incumbent on Canadian farmers to endeavour to make up for this reduced price by the practice of a more productive system of agriculture than has yet been followed in the Province. But with this more productive mode many of them are as yet unacquainted, and of course the best and most necessary kind of instruction they can bestow on their children, is that which would be taught in the agricultural schools, I have proposed in my work, and to which I therefore earnestly call the agricultural readers attention.

The next subject treated on in the work, is, the General Trade and Commerce of the Province.

The movement that has taken place in the trade and commerce of Great Briain, and

particularly her declared intention to abrogate the laws imposing a duty on grain imported there, has indeed occasioned a great sensation and been the cause of much alarm in this Province. And it is natural enough, that a country that has ever since its first settlement been highly favoured in respect of the duty payable on its staple article of produce, wheat, should feel sore at so sudden a deprivation of that advantage. But we have to consider that we are only a part of a great empire, and if it be found that owing to a disastrous dispensation of Providence by which millions are deprived of their food, that it has become imperative on the Parent State to take off all duties on the necessaries of life, we, surely, who are blessed with a productive and plentiful country ought to be the last to complain. I have therefore been much surprised that notwithstanding the exigencies which appear to have compelled the Imperial Legislature to this step, a demand has been made on her to repeal the Navigation Laws, which have produced her prosperity strength and glory, and by which alone perhaps she will be enabled to maintain her independence, and perhaps the liberties of the world. I trust to have shown in the work that United Canada is equally competent to build and man vessels, to carry home her produce, as the United States are, and that the tranquility of the Province being preserved by

proper management, she can procure ample funds from the capitalists of Great Britain for that purpose, I conceive therefore, that it would be in some degree disgraceful to resort to a foreign nation for ships to export her produce. That Great Britain may allow the Americans to pass through the canals, that are now completed, through Canada to the ocean, is probable. That would be an act of amity to a nation at peace with us, it would greatly add to the revenue of our canals, and it could not tend to diminish the navigation of the Parent State because the cargoes of these American vessels could otherways find their way to the ocean, by their own canals. But, that the navigation laws of Great Britain should be repealed, in order that Canada may get cheap freights to Great Britain, I hold there is not the least necessity for. I have conversed with many persons well acquainted with the shipping business of the Province, who all agree that sea-going vessels can be built and manned as cheap in Canada as in the United States; the only objection made was that we had not yet a sufficient capital. That difficulty I think can be got over, in the way I have stated in the work; by people of responsible character and property uniting to build these vessels, and to obtain loans of capital for that purpose from the holders of it in the Mother country.

In the present dilemma then, we conceive the

Province should evince a proper degree of patience, until it be determined at home what changes are really to take place in the trade and Corn Laws. Perhaps that change may be more favourable than is expected. But there is something more to be said on this subject. In the impatience manifested by some people here, they have presumed to declare that annexation, as they are pleased to call it, will take place, with the United States. It would be curious to trace from whom this idea originated. It is certain that Lord Cathcart, in his despatch to the British Government stated that his Council were of opinion that if that government persisted in their doing away with the protective duties on Canadian wheat, &c., it might tend to create a separation of the Colony from Great Britain. For this rash and imprudent assertion, they in my opinion richly merited to lose, and in fact, they did not long afterwards retain their places, and probably the same want of energy which caused that assertion was the cause of that loss. The idea of a separation of this colony on account of some question of trade, coming from so high a quarter, must have had a great tendency to warrant and to circulate that idea among, at least, that part of the population who had formerly shown themselves no great friends to British connection. One of the Boards of Trade of the Province, also stated, in one of their addresses to the govern

ment, something like the same idea of separation, which I think was justly censured by the present Governor. It is very probable then, that the idea of separation coming from such high sources may have had much influence in encouraging the diffusion of it. But Canada has shown her loyalty and adherence to British connection, in worse times than the present, and I firmly believe, she will continue to do so, when the occasion requires, and that it was a very unwarrantable aspersion on the province, to assert anything to the contrary.

The present government is also, it appears, applying to the British Government to rescind her navigation laws. They are also endeavouring to form an agreement with the American Government to remove all duty on wheat shipped to the United States from this Province, on condition of our removing all duty on that imported thence into it. Now, as I have stated in the work, I consider this as a very dangerous experiment. I believe that if our merchants and agriculturists instead of, as formerly, finding customers for our produce in Great Britain, are to look to the States for it, I think will in time produce a great diminution of the natural attachment of the Province for the Parent State and ultimately attempts for a separation. The Government will therefore have to consider that a very great degree of

responsibility will rest upon them, if that measure be actually carried into effect.

And as I trust to have shown in the work that there is no real necessity for this measure, I should be happy if it could be avoided. I trust to have shown that Canada is equally competent to build sea-going vessels to carry home her products as the Americans. I conceive that a valuable branch of industry would be procured for the Province, by the building of these vessels, and also a valuable nursery for seamen created and the prosperity of the Province produced. To conclude the subject of those gentlemen who are pleased to talk of *annexation* as they call it, I would wish to ask whether they have forgotten that these Provinces of British North America have been often declared in the Imperial Parliament to be an integral part of the British Empire? Let them not conceive that although the Imperial Parliament may wish to conciliate and to extend great advantages to these Provinces she will be so foolish as to give up so valuable a portion of the Empire. Let them also be convinced as I am, that although the people of this Province, in the dilemma and uncertainty in which they are now placed, feel uneasy and and anxious for a settlement of the question of its commerce yet that they have not deviated from a sincere desire to remain united with the Parent State on

fair and honourable terms, and that they will maintain such connection.

The next subject we have introduced in the work is, "The Present State of the Protestant Religion, with a view to harmonize its sects, and perhaps ultimately to bring them into one powerful united body." I trust to have fully developed the great necessity of this Protestant movement in the work.

I conceive that after what has happened in a high branch of that church, and the doubts and surmises that have been the consequence of it, it has become almost imperative on all Protestant sects to unite, declare and confirm their determination to adhere to the principles of Protestantism, and to take measures, for forwarding a great national union of all Protestantism. I repeat, that I believe the Protestant Reformation is but half completed without it; I believe that the differences and animosities which have arisen among the sects for the want of it, are totally unworthy of the advanced and enlightened state of the present age in knowledge and science, and I believe therefore, that it is the solemn and sacred duty of all ministers of the Protestant sects to assemble in convocation, for the purpose of effecting this national union; thereby completing the design of the Redeemer when he gave this religion to mankind, "Unity, Peace :—" that this religion under the sanction of this Protestant nation may be fixed on that immut-

able basis which its "reasonable service" entitles it to.

We now proceed to the last part of our Prospectus, "The Dissertation on the National Debt of Great Britain."

The British Nation, has for many years been labouring under the pressure of its enormous debt ; the present generation have been accustomed to hear of it from their infancy, almost as part and parcel of the constitution of the country, that, with vast numbers of its people, all attempts to remove that pressure may seem nearly akin to removing the atmospheric pressure from our earth. An idea has even prevailed among many that this national debt is serviceable to the country. It has been said that the creditors of the State, possessing of course, considerable weight and influence in it, will be the more willing to support the reins of government and the preservation of good order and the laws, from the interest they have therein. That idea is no doubt founded on truth, but can it be at all supposed by any intelligent man, that if the debt were paid off, as it would probably be invested in other securities in the country, employed as they would naturally be in the advancement of trade, manufactures, commerce and navigation, and the public improvements of the country, can it then be supposed that the holders of that capital would not have an equal or a greater interest in its

peace, good government, order and security? That argument falls then to the ground. The history of all the nations that have yet existed in the earth have never exhibited a greater source of just exultation and confidence, than would ensue, to Britain if this great purpose could be effected.

Now to show that this is not impossible to be done, it will appear on almost the first reflections on this subject that Great Britain has paid more than the amount of the debt in interest alone. She has paid nigh thirty millions a-year interest on the debt for the last thirty years, making nine hundred millions of pounds sterling, being one hundred millions more than the amount of the debt.

The value of the whole property of the people of Great Britain, as will be shown hereafter by estimate, amounted a few years since to within about £320,000 of four thousand millions of pounds sterling; which at the present day it is no doubt equal to being five times nearly the amount of the national debt.

Yet has this great country for so long a period of time, gone on, burdening herself and distressing her poor with a tax of nigh thirty millions of pounds sterling, annually.

It is true, that some persons may say, that some of the holders of national stock might prefer leaving it in the hands of the government where their interest is secured to them;

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than in having it paid off to them. That indeed may be an individual argument, but, it is not just that the public should be compelled to pay forever that interest, when by paying off the principal the payment of thirty millions annually might be saved, and that principal might be invested on ample security, in advancing the trade commerce and navigation, or public works of the country. The argument above stated resolves itself then rather into an argument, why government securities should be paid off and cease, since they prevent the investment of the vast amount of the debt in ample securities, whereby the above stated important advancement of the trade, commerce, navigation and public undertakings of the country might be effected.

I shall therefore commence this undertaking by producing such treatises as I have met with on this great subject shall comment thereon, and endeavour to show the cause of their failure; I shall then set forth the high and permanent advantages that would result to great Britain; when the debt can be paid off, and shall then bring forward my plan for so doing. But before commencing the statement I have to make some remarks on the subject of our prospectus of this work. A person on reading the last line thereof, observed to me, that he supposed thereby that I was a Radical; on asking him on what account he thought that

he said, that he conceived by the word extinction, I intended the debt should be wiped off, that is, not paid at all, as some Radicals are of opinion should be the case. Now there is an old saying, "that some people measure other people's corn by their own bushel." Whether that was the case with the person referred to, I do not know. But lest others should form the same idea of my prospectus, I observe, when it is stated in the prospectus of a work of so important a subject as the national debt, that a plan is to be proposed to the public, for its gradual extinction, it could not reasonably be supposed it was intended it should not be paid at all. I do remember it is true that such an idea has been stated in print. It was often and for a long time said by the opposition party in the Parliament of Great Britain, that the French war of 1794 was neither just nor necessary. But he that remembers the revolutionary principles and practices of the French Rulers at that time, their devices for exciting other nations to revolt, and moreover the gigantic power that was collected on the shores of France for the express purpose of effecting the overthrow of Great Britain in her own Island, cannot but allow, that to withstand this power her efforts were no more than were required for this purpose. The entire continent of Europe even with the subsidizing aid of Britain was insufficient, for by the peace of Tilsit the Russian Empire itself was

drawn in against us, and England had to stand the brunt herself alone, against that mighty force, and gloriously she did so.

Now, though it be true that the war added 300 millions to the national debt, even that sum is a trifle to the entire amount of the property of Great Britain, which had she succumbed to the power of France would then have been jeopardized. But whether that war were just and necessary or not, it was determined on by the majority of the representatives of that people in Parliament assembled, and therefore the war was constitutionally judged necessary for the defence of the liberties of the country. That the justice and honour of the country then requires that the debt should be acknowledged and avowed to be in course of payment there can be no doubt, neither is there any, that the high character of the British nation for good faith, stability, and also her subsequent prosperity have been mainly owing to the almost sacred nature of that good faith in her engagements.

From Chamber'ss Information for the People, New and Improved Edition, Vol. 1. Edinburgh: Published by Wm. and Robert Chambers, 1842.

The National Debt formed by borrowing money at different rates of interest, to conduct the warlike operations of the country, has risen from small beginnings towards the conclusion of the 17th century to an unparalleled amount. At the revolution of 1688 the national debt amounted to only £664,263; at the accession of Queen Anne, £16,394,702; of George

I., £54,145,363 ; of George II., £52,092,235 ; at the end of the Spanish war, in 1748, £73,293,312; at the commencement of war in 1755, £74,571,340 ; at conclusion of peace in 1762, £146,682,844 ; at commencement of American war in 1776, £135,943,051 ; at conclusion of peace in 1783, £238,434,870 ; at commencement of French Revolutionary war, £233,733,609 ; at peace of Amiens in 1811, £562,839,277 ; at peace of 1816, Feb. 1st, £864,822,461 ; on 5th Jan., 1832, £782,667,234 ; interest, £28,341,416. Since 1832 the debt has increased chiefly by the forming of Exchequer Bills adding floating obligations to funded stock ; and in 1839 the amount was £841,000,000, with an interest of £29,000,000.

An estimate was formed of the value of the whole property, public and private, which has been created and accumulated by the people of this country, and which they now actually possess. The value when the sum is expressed by figures, is so immense, that it eludes the imagination to conceive it £2,995,000,000, value of productive private property ; value of unproductive, or dead stock, £500,700,000 ; value of public property of all kinds, £103,800,000 ; total of public and private property, £3,679,500,000.

The wealth of the Empire is dividedd in the following proportions between the three countries :

	Productive private property.	Unproductive private property.	Public property.
England,	£2,054,000,000	£374,000,000	£42,600,000
Scotland,	318,000,000	51,000,000	3,000,000
Ireland,	622,000,000	116,400,000	11,000,000
	<hr/> £2,994,000,000	<hr/> £541,400,000	<hr/> £56,600,000
Gross amount, £3591,400,000.			

I now proceed to set forth the high and permanent advantages that would result to Great

Britain, and to all her Colonial Empire, if the national debt can be paid off. The first advantage I notice is, the compliance with the great principle of justice, which requires that this debt should be paid. Justice has been emphatically called the "darling attribute of Nature." A great commercial nation should steadfastly uphold this great principle. As I observed above, the trade, commerce, navigation, and public works of Great Britain and all her Colonies are enduring great privation and injury by the loss of the employment of eight hundred millions of capital, which might under ample security, be invested therein. And although some of the present holders of national stock may be content to receive their annual interest thereon, that does not diminish, but rather increases, the injury done to the public service. Justice to these great elements of public prosperity demands therefore that the debt should be paid. We have seen above, that the entire property of Great Britain some years since amounted to £3,679,500,000; at the present day, it no doubt amounts to £4,000,000,000, being nigh five times the amount of her debt. That she is competent to pay then, is obvious, no less so than that the high principles of national justice and expediency, require that she should pay it.

The question is then, only how that is to be done? The next advantage I shall mention is,

that of the high principle of honour which requires this payment. When a private individual is said to be in debt there is always a stigma attached to the idea, how much more so, when the case applies to a great and powerful commercial nation, more especially when it is proved she is competent to pay it. I hope shortly to show that her competence may be made available for that purpose, and that she may therefore assert this high principle of national honour.

The next great and important advantage that would ensue to the country, by the final payment of this debt, is that of removing the annual taxes, producing nigh thirty millions of pounds, sterling, for the payment of the interest only. It is true that by apportioning this amount of taxation equally among the population of Great Britain, say twenty-six millions of souls, it does not amount individually to much less than 24s. stg.. But when we apportion this among families of five souls each, it amounts to six pounds each family, and the poor father of that family has to pay it. Again, when we consider the immense number of poor in Great Britain, and consequently the great numbers who consume but very little of those articles on which these taxes are raised, I should consider that we cannot estimate the amount of taxes raised on each family that does consume them at less than ten pounds sterling for

each family. Now ten pounds sterling a-year, is 16s. 8d. stg. a month, or 4s. 2d. stg. a-week; about one-half of all that numerous families in Great Britain have to exist on.

The present age has made astonishing discoveries in the physical sciences, and is applying them to some of the most advantageous improvements in social life. It would seem also that the restless mind of man is advancing with railroad speed in the science of political economy, especially in that branch of it which is now called by the French economists, the rights of labour, or its organization. One of the great modern orators of France did, during his ephemeral enjoyment of popularity and power, but a few months ago, make his boast that France was more highly enlightened on this subject than any other country; for he condescendingly observed in his speeches, that France would not, as she had done in one of her previous revolutions, excite the people of other nations to revolt: but that she would merely consider, that if they did not choose to adopt the same high degree of freedom of government and constitution that France had now adopted, she would consider them as not yet having arrived at that high degree of civilized wisdom, which she had pre-eminently attained. To which gasconic effusion, steady John Bull, appears by his subsequent conduct on April 10th 1818, to have responded much

in the same way as he did a long time ago when a Frenchman boasted in his presence that the French had invented shirt ruffles. "They did so," said John, "and the English invented the *shirt for them*."

But although this Utopian and idle scheme of a national obligation to maintain labour in useless production, or in idleness, is totally inconsistent with the nature of things, more especially in a manufacturing and commercial country; yet the rights of the poor as respects the imposts on them by taxation, have an undoubted claim on the consideration of the Legislature. It is true the laws of England have for their principle that no man should be suffered to starve; but the poor have certainly also the right that an excess of taxation shall not bring them to the starving point, shall not degrade them to the necessity of pauperism. It is said that England is the richest and the poorest country in the world. Is not there to be found a way to remedy this, and to remove this stigma? Certainly, one considerable step to it would be to remove the annual tax of nigh thirty millions of pounds sterling; by the gradual payment of the national debt.

It is said indeed that economy and retrenchment of the public expenditure is to be the order of the day with the present government; but the utmost they could probably retrench in the cost of the Army and Navy, and Civil List and

other items, could amount to a very few millions, which divided among the population would be but of little amount.

But, if a grand national effort were made for the settlement of the debt, of the successful issue of which I have but little doubt, the reduction of nigh two-thirds of the present taxation would be the happy result.

I have moreover, stated in the foregoing pages what I consider an astounding fact, that this taxation for the interest of this debt has actually in 30 years amounted to more than the debt itself, a powerful proof that the nation is competent to its gradual extinction.

We come now to treat of the most important and permanent advantage which would ensue to the nation by the discharge of the enormous burden of this debt. Eight hundred and forty-one millions sterling, as shown above, is stated to have been this debt in 1839, with an interest of twenty-nine millions annually. His Grace the Duke of Wellington, when in office, did, I believe, reduce it by some plan of his, one or two millions. Whether it has been since added to by the founding of Exchequer Bills I am not aware, but shall consider the amount to be £800,000,000 in round numbers. Now the productive and unproductive capital of the population of Great Britain, as shown above, is nigh £4,000,000,000. It is to be observed that although it be true that any person

holding stock in the public funds, who wishes to embark in trade, manufactures, navigation or any branch, may, by selling out, convert that stock into private capital, yet that operation adds nothing to the capital of the country. The stock bought is paid for by a part of that capital, and it is merely a change of holders that takes place in the Public Funds. The same amount of interest has still to be raised by the taxation of the public. Now it appears by the above statement that the value of productive private property in Great Britain amounts to two thousand nine hundred and ninety five millions stg. This item then must embrace the great manufacturing and commercial interests of Great Britain, and its capital would receive an increase (if the debt of eight hundred millions could be paid off,) of more than one-fourth to the productive capital of the country. It would be highly interesting if a mind, thoroughly acquainted with the nature of the trade, manufactures, commerce and navigation of Great Britain were to take and show to the world a retrospect of the multitudinous branches of those elements of prosperity which might be benefitted and extended by this great accession of capital. It has been almost an axiom in private concerns, that every man is the best manager of his own resources ; so do I believe, it would be found in the case of the public fund holders, if the debt was paid off. In-

stead of depending upon the public funds for the payment of a small interest on their stock, their vigilance, sagacity, and industry would be called into action, for the discovery of means by which that capital might be invested in a more productive and equally secure employment; whereby the industry, skill and labour of their country might be engaged, and a greater degree of competence diffused through it. There cannot indeed be a doubt that, in the case of this immense capital being liberated to be employed in these great sources of prosperity, an era of satisfaction, commercial energy and enterprise would be effected in Great Britain. The intelligence, the zeal and activity of her merchants would probably be directed to the discovery of new fields for manufactures, trade, commerce and navigation, which being opened, fostered and protected by the government in their treaties with other nations for that purpose might lead the national commerce to a higher pitch of prosperity than she has yet witnessed. Another source of productive employment of this increased capital arising from the liberation of the national debt would probably be found, if prudent caution be exerted on the subject, in the extended settlement of the colonial empire of Great Britain. Mr. Molesworth has lately, in the House of Commons, drawn a very unfavourable picture of her colonial possessions: according to his estimate

they do not pay the expenses of maintaining them. But even allowing these statements to be correct at the present day, he has shown a total ignorance of the nature of colonial possessions. For instance, Canada contains at present, nigh one million and $\frac{1}{2}$ a half of souls. She is known to double her population in 20 to 25 years; that is, by natural increase independently of all emigration. Now, although her importations from G. B. have as yet amounted only to a certain sum, which may not much exceed the cost of maintenance, yet as that cost will need to be but little increased when her population is doubled, her importations from G. B. will probably be doubled also. Yet for this natural and continual increase in the value of all young countries, Mr. Molesworth has made no allowance whatever. Another thing he has omitted in his account current. The colonies offer a most important safety valve for the redundant population of the mother country, the pressure of which redundancy she has long felt the weight of. By transferring a part to her colonies, she still retains the fealty of her subjects, who thus become consumers of her manufactures; and another thing, and perhaps the most important of all to G. B. Mr. Molesworth has omitted, viz. the trade and navigation to her colonies and her fisheries offer a powerful source of supplying the best sort of men for her navy, with-

out a supremacy in which, she would soon sink in the scale of nations, and perhaps peril her independence. The settlement then, of the colonies of G. B. to a greater extent, must under judicious management present an advantageous and productive field for the employment of capital liberated by the extinction of the national debt.

It has long been a subject of remark in the British North American Colonies that a greater disposition was manifested in England among its capitalists to loan money to the people of the U. S. than to these colonies, and we have seen what has been the result, in the repudiating schemes of some of those states. Now, there is not a doubt that, in all young colonies, great and frequent opportunities occur for investing capital, which investments under proper precautions, as regards security for those loans by the exertion of sufficient vigilance and intelligence on the part of the loaning capitalist, will be remunerative; and respecting loans to the British Colonies, one thing is certain; that *they* cannot legally form any such *repudiating schemes* in them as have appeared in the U. S. Immense tracts of land of good quality are contained in them, which, when settled under sagacious management, would effect not only a fertile means of relieving the mother country from a redundant and therefore burdensome population; but also, by sober in-

dustry, in that redundant part, be the means of rendering it able to acquire ample sustenance, and eventually to increase the prosperity of these Colonies and the Mother Country.

We have now to the best of our humble abilities shown the high advantages which would result to the nation and her colonies if this enormous national debt could be paid off, and shall here state our opinion of the causes that have led to the failure of former attempts for that purpose.

The illustrious mind of William Pitt formed a plan for this great purpose by means of a sinking fund, which probably would have had in time great effect had it been persevered in; but, either after his administration or his death, that fund was applied to other purposes. Several other writers have advocated the payment of the debt. But the chief cause, in my humble opinion, that has produced the failure of all attempts for this great end, is, that the authors of them have relied on their own proposed financial plans, whereas the true and perhaps the only certain source of any effective plan must arise from the British Nation itself. It is on her that the vast pressure is bearing of thirty millions annual taxation, and the deprivation of eight hundred millions of capital which lays idly locked up in the funds. This immense taxation must bear hard on the national poor, must be a chief cause of the

misery that has often wrung the hearts of all that is humane and generous in the British nation. It will therefore be for the nation to form its resolve. 'The present times require some immediate action, some great national effort, by which the distresses of the country, and the difficulties in trade and commerce would be restored by the national energies to their wonted prosperity. If the nation feels this conviction, and the necessity and wisdom of a national effort to effect this great purpose, I have not a doubt of the power of the patriotic will of England to do this ; and I shall now proceed with great diffidence indeed, and profound humility, to lay my plans for that end before her, making first a few preliminary observations on the subject.

It is true that some extensive commercial operations of the British nation have been unsuccessful. The South Sea scheme caused the havoc of many private fortunes. Of the recent schemes of Rail Road making it is said at this day, in the public prints, that they have occasioned more distress among private families than has been ever known in England. Now it is perhaps, fortunate for the plan I am to offer, that it cannot be attended with any such evil effects. The enterprising mind of England appears at present almost quiescent, but it cannot long remain unemployed. Is not then the present a proper time for the na-

tion to consider whether it would not be highly advisable to endeavour by a generous and mighty effort to remove the incubus it has so long labored under, that the coast may be clear, so to say, for the exertion of that expansive mind of England, and of those commercial energies which would doubtless be created by the removal of the debt.

The celebrated Doctor Dick, in his work, called "Mental Illumination and Moral Improvement of mankind," says in page 325:

During the war with Buonaparte 40 millions would have been considered as a mere item in the national expenditure, amounting to little more than the war taxes of a single year. And shall it ever be said that such a sum cannot now be raised for counter-acting moral evil and human misery, and training our population to "glory and immortality?"

And in page 327 he says:

Besides the saving which might be made in the public expenditure, there is a still greater sum which might be saved from various items in the private establishments of wealthy individuals, which might be devoted to national improvements. The saving of a single bottle of wine a-day, would amount to £50 a-year; the discarding of an unnecessary servant, to nearly the same sum: keeping four horses instead of six, would be a saving of at least £60; and discarding a score of hounds would save more than a £100 a-year. There are thousands in our country, who in this way could save £500 a-year to be devoted to rational and benevolent purposes, without feeling the least diminution of their sensi-

tive enjoyments. There are hundreds of thousands in the middle ranks of life who could save £20 a-year, by discarding unnecessary luxuries, in regard to houses, furniture, food and clothing, and feel themselves just as comfortable as before; and there are many more among the lower ranks who could save several pounds every year, which are now wasted either in folly or intemperance, and find themselves richer and more comfortable at the close of the year than at any former period. Let us suppose, what is perhaps not far from the truth, that there are 50,000 individuals, or the $\frac{1}{30}$ part of the British population, who, at an average, have incomes of £3000 per annum, and could devote £300 a-year to public purposes—some much more and some less; this would amount to fifteen millions a-year. There may next be reckoned about 200,000 with incomes at an average of £300 per annum, who could devote a similar proportion, namely £30 per annum; which would amount to six millions. Supposing the population of Great Britain to be 16,000,000, and that only one-fourth of this number, namely 4,000,000, have it in their power to devote a certain portion of their income to the purposes alluded to, there would still remain 3,750,000 of the lower classes, who might be supposed, on an average, able to devote one guinea a-year to the same objects, which would amount to nearly four millions. So that twenty-five millions of pounds might be raised annually for literary, philanthropic, and religious purposes, without any one feeling the loss of any sensitive enjoyments, but, on the contrary, enjoying the purest gratification in beholding improvements going forward, and the plans of benevolence gradually accomplishing. Passing many other other considerations of this kind, the only other item of expendit-

ure I shall notice is, that which is spent in the purchase of spirituous liquors, which are for the most devoted to the purposes of intemperance. According to an estimate made by Mr. Buckingham and the committee appointed by Parliament to investigate the state of intemperance, it appears, that, within the limits of Great Britain and Ireland, there is a loss sustained by the use of ardent spirits amounting to nearly fifty millions sterling per annum! It is stated that, in the city of Glasgow alone, the sum expended in intoxicating drinks "is nearly equal to the whole amount expended on public institutions of charity and benevolence in the entire United Kingdom." This item alone would be more than sufficient for all the purposes of philanthropy and of universal improvement.

Now, if there be any force in these arguments when applied to the purposes of general education, they will apply with tenfold force in favor of the great purpose I am advocating. Let this enormous incubus of the national debt on the people of England be removed by the noble and energetic will of the nation; and the worthy Doctor's plans for the welfare of his fellow citizens will have tenfold more chance of being accomplished. The joy, the profound exultation that must be the general result of this burden being removed from the nation would materially augment its desires for every humane and generous purpose.

Conceiving then, that these her evident interests and the crying demands of public distress will be considered by the nation as worthy of

every sacrifice, and considering further that she will duly appreciate the wisdom of clearing the way for the powerful action in trade, commerce, manufactures, navigation and public improvements to which her people will no doubt be led by the payment of the debt, I here at once propose the plan for so doing. The amount of this debt as above said, we shall take at eight hundred millions of pounds sterling; the amount of all the property at present in the possession of the people of Great Britain is four thousand millions. One fifth then of this sum will pay the debt.

"The National Debt, says Mr. Rigby Wesop, in his Revised Arithmetic, is £772,000,000 and the aggregate capital of Great Britain and Ireland is £7,750,000,000, so that ten per cent. of the capital will easily pay off the debt. It is as if a man with a capital of 7,750 was indebted only to the amount of £772. Mr. W. proposes ten years as the time of paying the debt, and thinks it would be very easy for the owners of real property to do so."—*British Colonist*, April 24, 1849.

We propose therefore that every person possessed of a property of one thousand pounds sterling, should agree to devote two hundred of it in the course of twenty years to pay off this debt, and any person of greater capital in proportion. The amount of the sum paid for one thousand pounds would then be only ten pounds per year, or if the amount of the debt in the foregoing note is correct, five pounds will answer, but it would be optional with the capital-

ist either to pay all off at once or in such instalments as it may best suit him. If the whole sum were to be agreed to by the nation to be paid off at once, it is to be remembered that there would be thereby an immediate cessation of the thirty millions of taxes for the interest of the debt, and a proportional diminution according as the time of paying it off is longer or shorter.

It is however probable that the vast sales of property which would be required in the national operation for this purpose, would preclude the possibility of their being accomplished in less than the twenty years proposed. Now if it be true, as Doctor Dick says, that "there are hundreds of thousands of people in our country who could save £500 a-year to be devoted to national and benevolent purposes, without feeling the least diminution of their sensitive enjoyments, it is probable that many of the wealthy would make voluntary contributions in their zeal to accomplish this great purpose of liberating their country from this great and enormous burden of her debt. It is however to the enlightened wisdom and to the national patriotism of the great body of the people of England to which I confess I look for the final accomplishment of this great purpose. At first view of the plan I have proposed for this payment of the debt, it may appear to some rather romantic, but when reflection

is made by them, on the actual fact, that the people of Great Britain are really paying the entire amount of this national debt in interest every thirty years, it certainly cannot be denied that it would be wiser for the nation to give up at once even one-fifth of their property to pay off the capital of the debt in 20 years, and so not have to pay it again in interest in thirty years.

The present age teems with great and highly useful discoveries in the physical sciences. On looking back some twenty to forty years a man is astonished at the progress society has made. Time and space in fact are approaching to their annihilation. The very lightning of heaven is subjected to use, and in time an idea will probably be conveyed over the greatest part of the planet we inhabit with incalculable velocity.

Why then should not the mind of man itself make an equal advance in the high science of wisdom and happiness equal at least to that of the other sciences. Why should not the mind rise superior to the idea that its happiness depends on a few thousands more or less. England has of late shown an admirable proof of that wisdom in the calm and firm attitude with which she resisted the late attempts for the overthrow of her national institutions, which, excited no doubt by the wild example of France and the neighbouring nations, had been raised against those institutions.

Why should she not proceed to show that by one vast national effort she is enabled to remove the great incubus that has so long proved oppressive to the nation, and which, when removed, will assuredly create an energy and enterprize through every stream of her vitality that will probably produce the means of employment and of comfortable subsistence to her vast population of artisans and labourers, and prevent the necessity of depriving numbers of them of their birth-right, by an unavoidable emigration to distant countries. It is therefore to the enlightened wisdom of the nation, to their love of justice, of honour, and of good faith, the true sources of high national advancement, that I look to for the accomplishment of this great purpose.

I now proceed to offer a few suggestions that have occurred to me for the facilitating of the great national operations that would have to be employed in the transfer of property by sale or mortgage, in accomplishment of the plan stated above. It appears then to me, that should the British Nation determine to pay off her debt, and as I believe I have stated I almost believe in the omnipotence of the United British people in worldly affairs; it appears to me that the British Government should have a lien on the sales and mortgages of property which would have to be made for raising the sums required to pay off the debt, holding these

securities, the government and Imperial Parliament could authorize and render legal, a proper and sufficient currency for facilitating these sales and mortgages. This is my idea, but I freely allow that I can lay no claim to the art of finance. I merely beg leave to suggest the idea, that the government may, by some such mode facilitate the sales or mortgages of property for accomplishing the great purpose of the nation, should it decide on paying off the debt.

In fine, although I have for many years reflected on this subject, and have been much astonished that so great a country as Great Britain should have remained so many years under this burden, I do not presume to consider myself competent to enlighten the nation on the best means of effecting the sales and mortgages required for the accomplishment of the plan proposed. But I do certainly hope and believe that the foregoing suggestions will meet the eye of some of those superior minds which exist in Great Britain, some of those truly patriotic souls, whom I verily believe are yet to be found there; some of those intelligent beings who form the highest honours of their country, and if on a candid consideration of the above suggestions they meet with a congenial feeling in those superior minds; should they be of the same opinion as to the high advantages that would result to the nation, by the payment of the debt, I may then at least have some right

to hope they would apply their high talents, their knowledge of the best practical modes of finance, and above all their high patriotism to awaken and enlighten the nation for this great purpose, and to infuse that degree of zeal into it which may secure its final accomplishment.

I have now only to offer a few remarks on the most advisable mode for obtaining the sense of the nation on this subject. It is true that the nation being represented in the Imperial Parliament, any member of that Parliament whose powerful mind should lead him so to do, might move and advocate a plan for this purpose of paying off the debt; but so far from this being the case, I have great reason to believe an idea that was stated to me on this subject by a gentleman from England, apparently of some intelligence, respecting it, which was "that nobody at present thinks of paying off the national debt."

Now every person has a right to think what he pleases, but that does not prevent any other person from communicating his ideas to the public, if he believes he can show good reason why the debt should be paid off, which, with due humility, I believe I have done in this work, and further, I believe that were the general sense of the nation obtained upon the question, it would sanction that payment.

Would it not therefore, be advisable to take measures adequate to obtain this sense of the

nation on so important a subject? Might not a national convention be legally called for this great purpose? The answer to this question I hereby leave to those superior intelligent minds I have above alluded to. If they believe as I do in the load of misery which the effecting the purpose of this work would remove, if they believe in the vast manufacturing and commercial advantages it would produce, and further if they believe, as I do, in the energy and patriotism it would excite in all ranks of the people, I have no doubt of the sanction of those great intelligent and powerful minds, nor of their conviction that the glory of England would be raised by this national movement to a higher pitch than even she has yet attained.

I have now only to present the work to the world, as possibly the last I shall produce. I have freely given my thoughts on what measures I conceive were best to promote the welfare of the colonies and that of the parent state, and I leave it to a candid public to decide on its merits. Respecting this country of my birth, British North America, I believe that if the national debt of Great Britain were paid off it would produce a great rise in the value of their lands and the rapid advancement of these colonies. And feeling, as I do, a deep and earnest wish for their true happiness and welfare, I now conclude with imploring their legislatures to uphold and encourage by effective laws and

regulations, the religious, moral and political character of their people, infusing by their example a patient endurance of their present adverse and critical position, and a steady maintenance of the loyal character of the Provinces, as I feel convinced the time is not far distant when by a fair and proper regulation of the colonial system by Great Britain, these colonies, and united Canada in particular, will show the world that by such regulations they are competent to stand and to thrive without the aid of any foreign nation.

APPENDIX.

Since the writing of the greater part of the foregoing work, a series of most disastrous events have transpired in the Province. My fond hopes that the asperities of the two parties, into which the Province is divided, were cooling down, so that finally the talents and exertions of both would be employed in advancing the real interests and good of the Province, have been, by the late events, scattered for the present to the winds of heaven. The mutual asperities of these parties have for years before the late events been so great as to prevent them from combining their talents for the public service; and since those late unhappy events, the credit of these Provinces must be so blasted in Great Britain, that it is doubtful whether a thousand pounds could be borrowed there for the public works of the Province, or even per-

haps for its commercial affairs. Something then that will restore the credit and the character of the country must be done. Now a plan as I have stated before has been proposed for a federal union of all the North American Colonies; and I have to make mention of a very important advance in their condition, an advance which I advocated in a work published by me in Montreal, eight years since, a proposal stated in that work to obtain a representation in the Imperial House of Commons of each of the North American Colonies, by a certain number of representatives chosen for that purpose by each colonial legislature. I had when in London, England, from 1829 to 34, recommended in a letter to Joseph Hume, M. P., his perseverance in the plan he brought forward for this very purpose, at the time of the passing of the Reform Bill in 1830-1. His plan was for having all the colonies of Great Britain thus represented in Parliament. The purpose of the plan was approved of by all parties in the House of Commons, and was only postponed on account of the great pressure of the business of the Reform during that session. Hume withdrew his motion, with an understanding it was to be brought forward at some future time. He has not yet done so, but I have no doubt he and many other members of the house would be still favourable to it, if brought forward. I had long conceived a representation of this kind would tend much to advance the interests and welfare of these Provinces, and probably prove a most efficacious means of securing their tranquility, and thereby the encouragement and assistance of the British capitalists for the commencement and profitable prosecution of a well founded and enterprising spirit of commercial industry among their inhabitants. Considering now the unprecedented state of depression in their pres-

ent state of commerce, I am not at all surprised that a plan of this kind should be again suggested by some intelligent persons, I believe, in New Brunswick, for had these colonies been represented in the British Parliament by able persons, at the time of the passing of the change in the British Corn Laws, it is possible they would not have been allowed to be thrown into the serious state of alarm and uncertainty in which they are now in. It is possible, that the able representatives of these Provinces might have procured for them some remuneration for the loss of a protection which they have had from their first settlement, for their staple produce; that whilst the Imperial Parliament was giving a free opening to foreign nations for their grain and bread stuffs which will probably take up the redundant produce of those nations for many years; they might also have given up to their own B. N. A. Provinces the same remuneration I have advocated in the foregoing work, namely, the supply of our West India colonies with provisions, provided we can prove to these West India colonies we are competent to furnish that supply on as good terms as any other nation,

ERRATA.

- Page 4, line 3.—For “one” antidote, read “another.”
 13, “ 18.—For “Agriculturalists,” read “Agriculturist.”
 17, “ 2.—For “in” the Province, read “to.”
 19, “ 13.—For “no,” read “not so.”
 20, “ 21.—For “Canada in general,” read “Canada are in general.”
 52, “ 8.—For “the above period,” read “the period.”
 “ “ 2.—For “by this average,” read “this average.”
 53, “ 16.—For “10s. 9d. average,” read “37s. 10d. average.”
 “ “ “—For “41s. 9d. average freight,” read, “37s. 10d.

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